

SALEM NEWS

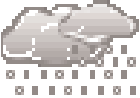
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GOOD MORNING!

TODAY'S FORECAST



High 33 / Low 25



► **Changes loom**
Browns fall to Steelers in finale; front office could clean house

See Page 1B

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DEATHS/3A

James E. Stelts
Anabel Herold
Wayne A. Cusick
Carolyn Cleveland

LOTTERY

Rolling 5.....29-12-21-24
Night Ohio Pick 36-24
Night Ohio Pick 47-2-9
Day Ohio Pick 37-6-3
Day Ohio Pick 45-3-4-7
Night Ohio Pick 50-3-3-5-6
Day Ohio Pick 58-3-5-7-1

E-POLL

Saturday's Question

Can the Browns beat the Steelers a second time this season?



Today's question
Ohio's minimum wage is going up 15 cents to \$7.85 beginning on Jan. 1. Good or bad for our state's economy?

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SALEM

Impact of Sandy on employment figures subsides

By **LARRY SHIELDS**
Staff Writer

New unemployment claims in both Ohio and the nation had been under speculative scrutiny that Hurricane Sandy might distort declines in new unemployment claims, according to Cleveland Economist George Zeller.

Reviewing the most recent data, Zeller, a 1967 Salem High School graduate, said, "That was far from the case at first, but Ohio then suffered a substantial relapse for each of the next four weeks as new unemployment claims increased sharply throughout Ohio through last week's data. He explained that in the

week's new data for the fourth week in December 2012, the impact of the hurricane "finally subsided." The odd patterns in the data for all weeks of this past November suffered some unusual increases that were storm-related, he said, and the increases in layoffs during November were very large and alarming in both

in the state and nationally. "This pattern continued during the first week of December 2012. But, there was slight improvement nationally during all other December weeks," he said. The numbers show that despite some mixed improvement at the national level this week, the Ohio data are still discouraging

Zeller said, explaining that, "Ohio remains at an elevated 'job destruction' level of current new unemployment claims for the 18th consecutive week." A three-week streak of "job growth" readings in Ohio's unemployment claims ended 18 weeks ago

See **IMPACT**, 5A

COLUMBIANA

Vigil held for victims

Columbiana community members hold candlelight vigil for Sandy Hook students, teachers



A crowd of about 75 people gathered outside the Main Street Theater Sunday night to pray for the Sandy Hook Elementary School victims and their families. (Salem News photo by Deanne Johnson)

By **DEANNE JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

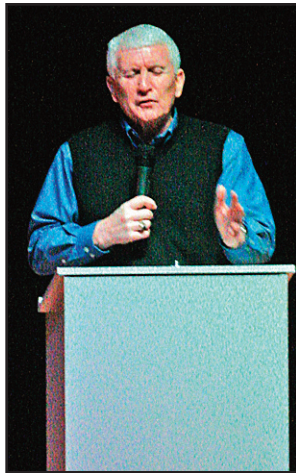
COLUMBIANA — When tragedy happens, people often look for answers and many turn to prayer. Sunday night, members of the Columbiana community held a candlelight prayer vigil in memory of the Sandy Hook Elementary School students and educators, who died earlier this month and their families in Newtown, Conn.

Newtown, a city with a population under 30,000, held all the funerals before Christmas for the 20 young students and six educators gunned down on Dec. 14. In Columbiana on Sunday, the name of each of them was read aloud, each followed by

a full minute of silence for prayers to be offered. "The words are for you and for God," said Paula Archdeacon of the First United Methodist Church of Columbiana before she began to read the names. "Charlotte Bacon ... Daniel Barden ... Rachel Davino ... Olivia Engel ... Josephine Gay ... " Some put an arm around their loved one's shoulders, comforting the sniffles which could be heard throughout the crowd. "Ana M. Marquez-Greene ... Dylan Hockley ... Dawn Hochsprung ... Madeleine F. Hsu ... Catherine V. Hubbard ... " Each person became lost in their own thoughts. Some

parents may have begun thinking of their own children, some of whom attended the service. "Chase Kowalski ... Jesse Lewis ... James Mattioli ... Grace McDonnell ... Anne Marie Murphy ... " Although probably no one in the theater personally knew a single name on the list, more prayers were offered for each of them, their families and even the entire town in mourning in Connecticut. "Emilie Parker ... Jack Pinto ... Noah Pozner ... Caroline Previti ... Jessica Rekos ... " Prayers were also offered for those families with

See **VIGIL**, 5A



Chuck Hamilton, pastor at the Upper Room Fellowship in Columbiana, leads a prayer during a service in Columbiana Sunday night for the families and victims of Newtown, Conn. (Salem News photo by Deanne Johnson)

Budget ends better than anticipated

Expenses much lower than expected in Goshen Township

By **KEVIN HOWELL**
Staff Writer

GOSHEN TOWNSHIP—The township's budget for 2012 ended better than anticipated, according to Fiscal Officer Tom Knoedler. Knoedler reported at the trustees' year end meeting Friday night that the actual expenses in 2012 were much lower than expected. Although he did not have the exact amount of difference between projected and actual balance, he said the difference is "sizable." "We're really in good shape, relatively speaking," he said. "A lot of the (department) incomes were higher

than expected and the expenses were kept down." Knoedler noted that the police department alone came in approximately \$70,000 under budget and that even though the General Fund income for the year was less than expenditures as expected, it was only \$15,000 less versus an anticipated total over \$30,000. The trustees followed the report by approving permanent appropriations for 2013 of \$1,700,903.88 and approving all department budgets for 2013 including a 50 cent raise for all employees. In other business, the

trustees renewed the fire contract with the Damascus Fire Department Inc. at \$120,350 for 2013. Knoedler noted that under new terms of the contract, the township will only be paying the fire prevention officer and not the assistant chief or EMS coordinator. Also at the meeting, the trustees renewed the township's health insurance plan at a .5 percent increase from 2012 with Anthem through Morris Insurance in Salem; approved replacement of the mercury light at the old administration building for no more than \$175 from Julian Electric in Salem; agreed to

repair as needed the current double door on the east side of the police station after receiving an estimate of \$2,229.88 to replace it with a single door; and approved the carry over of vacation and personal days for four police officers due to lack of personnel to cover. The organizational meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Jan. 5 at the Administration Building. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Administration Building. Kevin Howell can be reached at khowell@salemnews.net

Fiscal cliff deal still proving elusive

Deadline drawing perilously near

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Capitol Hill deal to avert the "fiscal cliff" was proving elusive Sunday as a deadline to avert tax hikes on virtually every American worker and block sweeping spending cuts set to strike the Pentagon and other federal agencies grew perilously near. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell remained at odds on such key issues as the income threshold for higher tax rates and how to deal with inheritance taxes, among other issues. McConnell complained that Reid had yet to respond to a GOP offer made Saturday evening and reached out to Vice President Joe Biden, a longtime friend, in hopes of breaking the impasse. Biden assumed the lead role for Democrats, and a McConnell spokesman said the Kentucky Republican and the vice president were expected to negotiate by telephone into the night. Rank-and-file lawmakers left the Capitol Sunday night with hopes that their leaders would give them something to vote on when they returned Monday morning. One sign of progress came as Republicans withdrew a long-discussed proposal to slow future cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients as part of a compromise to avoid the cliff. Democrats said earlier Sunday that proposal had put a damper on the talks, and Republican senators emerging from a closed-door GOP meeting said it is no longer part of the equation. "I was really gratified to hear that Republicans have taken their demand for Social Security benefit cuts off the table. The truth is they should never have been on the table to begin with," Reid said late Sunday afternoon. "There is still significant distance between the two sides, but negotiations continue."

At stake are sweeping tax hikes and across-the-board spending cuts set to take effect at the turn of the year. Taken together, they've been dubbed the fiscal cliff, and economists warn the one-two punch — which leaders in both parties have said they want to avoid — could send the still-fragile economy back into recession. Tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 expire at midnight

See **CLIFF**, 5A

Good morning Mary Whitacre. Thank you for subscribing to the Salem News.

WEATHER

THE FORECAST

AREA: Today...Mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 30s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph. Tonight...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows in the mid 20s. West winds 10 to 15 mph. New years day...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Near steady temperature in the upper 20s. West winds 5 to 10 mph. Tuesday night...Colder. Mostly cloudy. Lows around 12. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 20s. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 10. Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 20s. Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 8. Friday...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 20s. Friday night...Mostly cloudy in the evening...Then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 10. Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 20s.

CLEVELAND: today...Breezy. Mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Monday night...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows in the mid 20s. West winds 15 to 20 mph. New years day...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Near steady temperature in the mid 20s. West winds 10 to 15 mph. Tuesday night...Colder. Mostly cloudy. Lows around 15. Wednesday...Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 20s. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 13. Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 20s. Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 10. Friday...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 20s. Friday night...Mostly cloudy in the evening...Then becoming partly cloudy. Lows around 12. Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 20s.

Extended Forecast

Today



33/25

Tuesday



28/12

Wednesday

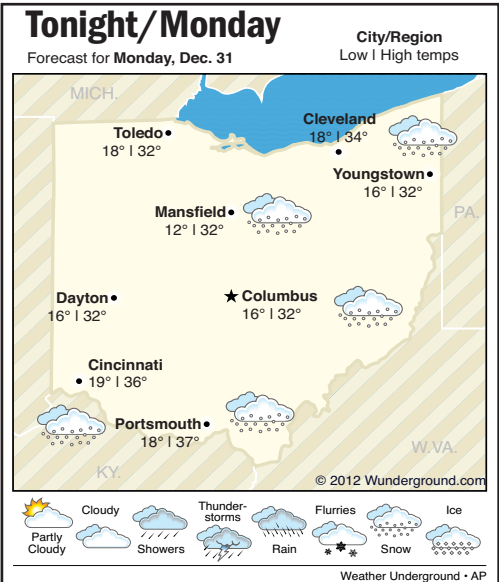
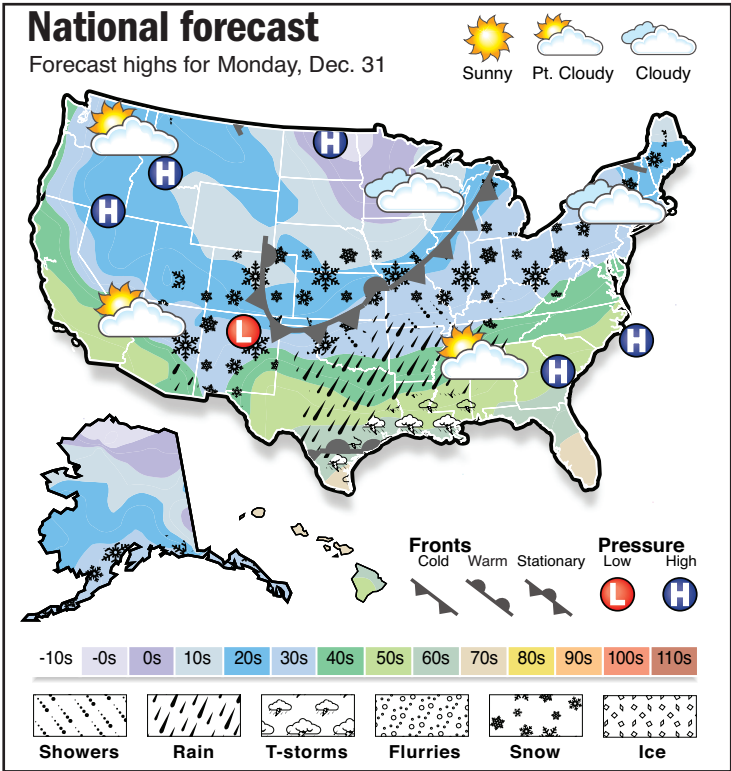


22/10

Thursday



25/8



ALMANAC

In 1759, Arthur Guinness founded his famous brewery at St. James's Gate in Dublin. In 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, N.J. In 1946, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II. In 1951, the Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in foreign aid. In 1969, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was shot to death with his wife and daughter in their Clarksville, Pa., home by hitmen acting at the orders of UMWA president Tony Boyle. In 1972, Major League baseball player Roberto Clemente, 38, was killed when a plane he'd chartered and was traveling on to bring relief supplies to earthquake-devastated Nicaragua crashed shortly after takeoff from Puerto Rico.

ACROSS OUR NATION

Obama wants gun violence measures passed next year, voices doubts about armed school guards

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recalling the shooting rampage that killed 20 first graders as the worst day of his presidency, President Barack Obama on Sunday pledged to put his "full weight" behind legislation aimed at preventing gun violence.

Obama voiced skepticism about the National Rifle Association's proposal to put armed guards in schools following the Dec. 14 tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. The president made his comments in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press."

Instead, the president vowed to rally the American people around an agenda to limit gun violence, adding that he still supports increased background checks and bans on assault weapons and high-capacity bullet magazines. He left no doubt it will be one of his top priorities next year.

"It is not enough for us to say, 'This is too hard so we're not going to try,'" Obama said.

"I think there are a vast majority of responsible gun owners out there who recognize that we can't have a situation in which somebody with severe psychological problems is able to get the kind of high capacity weapons that this individual in Newtown obtained and gun down our kids," he added. "And, yes, it's going to be hard."

Police: 5 people killed, about 20 injured in tour bus crash on icy Ore. interstate highway

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP) — A tour bus crash crashed Sunday on an icy stretch of interstate in Oregon, killing five people and injuring about 20 others, authorities said.

Police say the bus lost control around 10:30 a.m. on the snow- and ice-covered lanes of Interstate 84 in eastern Oregon. The bus crashed through a guardrail and went down an embankment a few hundred feet.

Rescue workers were using ropes to help retrieve people from the crash scene. State police said the charter bus was carrying about 40 people, but they did not say where the vehicle was traveling to or from.

The bus crash was the second fatal accident in Oregon on Sunday morning due to icy conditions. A 69-year-old man died in a rollover accident

State police have not released information on the company that owns the bus.

Republican governors face unpredictable politics as they deal with Obama's health care law

ATLANTA (AP) — Florida Gov. Rick Scott, who made a fortune as a health care executive, long opposed President Barack Obama's remake of the health insurance market. After the Democratic president won re-election, the Republican governor softened his tone. He said he wanted to "have a conversation" with the administration about implementing the 2010 law. With a federal deadline approaching, he also said while Florida won't set up the exchange for individuals to buy private insurance policies, the feds can do it.

In New Jersey, Gov. Chris Christie held his cards before saying he won't set up his own exchange, but he's avoided absolute language and says he could change his mind. He's also leaving his options open to accept federal money to expand Medicaid insurance for people who aren't covered. The caveat, Christie says, is whether Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius can "answer my questions" about its operations and expense.

Both Republican governors face re-election in states that Obama won twice, Christie in 2013 and Scott in 2014. And both will encounter well-financed Democrats.

Their apparent struggles on the issue, along with other postures by their GOP colleagues elsewhere, suggest political uncertainty for Republicans as the Affordable Care Act starts to go into effect two years after clearing Congress without a single Republican vote. The risks also are acute for governors in Democratic-leaning or swing-voting states or who know their records will be parsed should they seek the presidency in 2016 or beyond.

"It's a tough call for many Republican governors who want



Snowy Saturday
A heavy snow falls over the holiday decorations in the Lisbon square early Saturday morning. Residents around the county awoke Saturday to the new coating of snow blanketing their surroundings, changing the plans of some to include digging out during the day. (Salem News photo by Patti Schaeffer)

to do the best thing for their state but don't want to be seen as advancing an overhaul that many Republicans continue to test," said Whit Ayers, a consultant in Virginia whose clients include Gov. Bill Haslam of Tennessee, a Republican who didn't announce his rejection of a state exchange until days before Sebelius's Dec. 14 deadline.

In gun debate, vast communication gulf leaves two sides speaking starkly different languages

WEXFORD, Pa. (AP) — Inside the Big Buck Sport Shop, where mounted moose and deer heads loom over rifles, handguns, targets and ammunition, the customers have no doubt: More gun laws will not save lives.

Fifteen miles south, in the city of Pittsburgh, many confronted by a steady stream of gun violence are just as certain: To reduce the carnage, stricter gun control is needed.

This divide has existed for decades, separating America into hostile camps of conservative vs. liberal, rural vs. urban. As the nation responds to the massacre of 20 children and six adults

in Newtown, Conn., the gulf has rarely felt wider than now.

After the gunman invaded an elementary school with a Bushmaster AR-15 semiautomatic rifle and magazines of 30 bullets each, there was a brief moment of unity amid the nation's grief. Across partisan divides, politicians said something must be done about weapons based upon military designs. Many wondered if even the National Rifle Association would adjust its staunch opposition to gun control.

Then both sides regrouped. With President Barack Obama pushing for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and memory lingering of Obama's divisive 2008 comment that some Americans "cling to guns and religion," positions hardened.

74-year-old Maine landlord charged with murder in shooting deaths of teenage apartment tenants

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A 74-year-old Maine man was charged in the shooting deaths of two teenage inmates an apartment he rented out at his home, possibly over a dispute about where they parked their cars during a snowstorm, state police said Sunday.

James Pak was arrested at about 10 p.m. Saturday following a standoff at his suburban neighborhood home in Biddeford, about 15 miles south of Portland, police said. He is charged with two counts of murder in the deaths of Derrick Thompson, 19, and Thompson's girlfriend, 18-year-old Alivia Welch.

Thompson's mother, Susan Johnson, 44, called police to report the shootings at about 7 p.m. She and her 6-year-old son also live in the apartment, which is attached to the main house where Pak lived.



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OPINION

4A

Monday, December 31, 2012

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The Salem News

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Beth Volosin, Publisher/Advertising Director
John Dennis Creer, Managing Editor

OUR SIDE

Don't let holiday cheer claim lives

Everyone knows the dangers of drinking and driving, and everyone knows the partying that goes on New Year's Eve, so there simply is no excuse for even thinking about getting behind the wheel while intoxicated tonight.

In other words, before we wish you a hope for a wonderful and fulfilled 2013, we are wishing you a safe day today — and tonight. Nobody needs to be preached to about this. But then again, maybe they do. Just ask the police departments and highway patrol in our areas. Check out the court blotter we run daily on our pages regarding impaired driving. It always spikes around the holidays. There really isn't any excuse for doing it any other day of the year. So don't do it today. The worst that can happen is death or serious injuries. Then there is also the cost and shame factors of getting pulled over, even if not involved in an accident. A DUI conviction will trail you like shadow.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety reported that one out of every three traffic fatalities in 2011 were alcohol related. Wouldn't it be great if Ohio could cut its driving fatalities by 33 percent just by people realizing the dangers of intoxicated driving?

There were 347 fatal crashes in 2011, which investigating law enforcement said were caused by alcohol consumption. The state public safety department reported 5,261 people were injured in 2011 because of alcohol-related crashes.

The number of alcohol related crashes decreased by 10 percent from 2010. Overall wrecks were down significantly in 2010, some say it was due to people not driving as much because of the economic recession. Regardless, it is a positive trend that needs to continue.

Law enforcement will be out in full force to catch those drivers who ignore the message of don't drink and drive during the New Year's festivities.

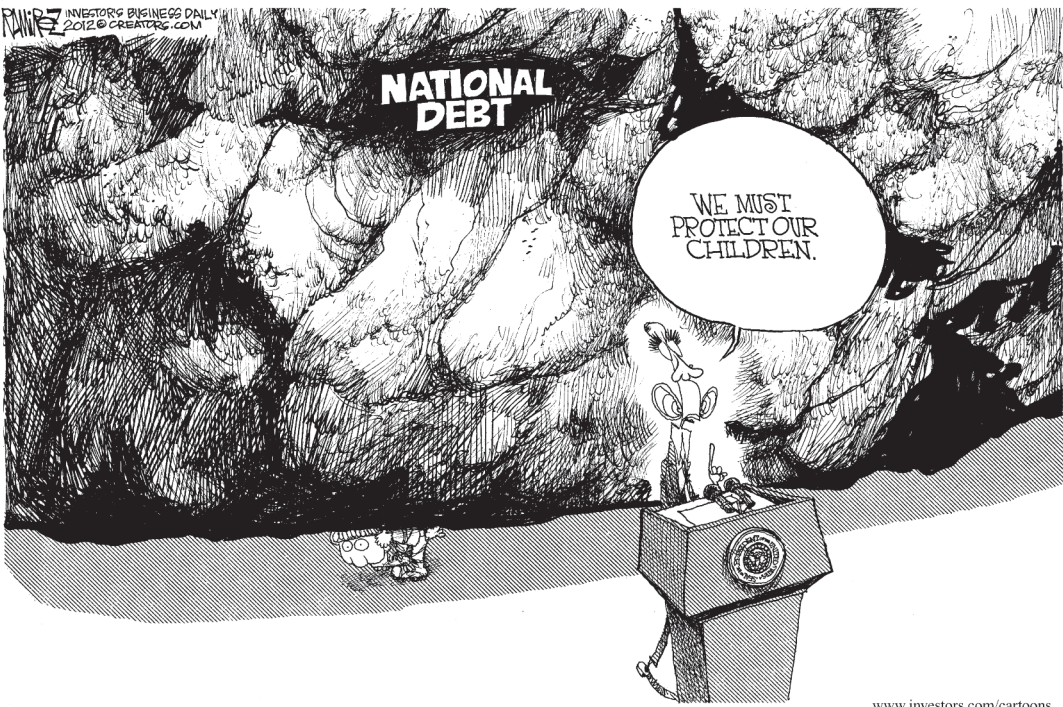
Many people play it smart on New Year's Eve. They attend a party at a friend's house with plans to sleep there for the night. Other couples may go to a lavish dinner/dance at a hotel and book a room for the night. Then there are others who actually practice having a designated driver or even renting a limousine.

Here's an idea for an alcohol, family-oriented night of fun this evening: New Year's Eve Salem. We have published multiple stories on this great event and they can be accessed at salemnews.net. It's inexpensive and it's fun for all ages. And — being held at venues with the core of the city — keeps families off the roads and away from potentially dangerous drivers. Many people believe it is hazardous to even be on the roads on New Year's Eve because of the drinking. They don't want to be involved in a wreck.

There may be a lot of alcohol consumed on New Year's Eve but there also is a lot consumed any weekend of the year. People leave bars and get behind the wheel without thinking twice. Why think about it on New Year's Eve and not the other days of the year?

Alcohol impairs the ability to drive. It slows reaction time and also causes a driver to cross the center line. There are serious or fatal accidents every weekend involving alcohol. Innocent family members are killed because someone was behind the wheel under the influence.

Make a New Year's resolution to not drive under the influence in 2013. And start tonight. Think seriously about the consequences of driving while impaired. It just isn't worth it.



Random thoughts ...



THOMAS SOWELL

Random thoughts on the passing scene:

When I was growing up, an older member of the family used to say, "What you don't know would make a big book." Now that I am an older member of the family, I would say to anyone, "What you don't know would fill more books than the Encyclopedia Britannica." At least half of our society's troubles come from know-it-alls, in a world where nobody knows even 10 percent

of all.

Some people seem to think that, if life is not fair, then the answer is to turn more of the nation's resources over to politicians — who will, of course, then spend these resources in ways that increase the politicians' chances of getting reelected.

The annual outbursts of intolerance toward any display of traditional Christmas scenes, or even daring to call a Christmas tree by its name, show that today's liberals are by no means liberal. Behind the mist of their lofty words, the totalitarian mindset shows through.

If you don't want to have a gun in your home or in your school, that's your choice. But don't be such a damn fool as to advertise to the whole world that you are in "a gun-free environment" where you are a helpless target for any homicidal fiend who is armed. Is it worth a human life to be a politically correct moral exhibitionist?

The more I study the history of intellectuals, the more they seem like a wrecking crew, dismantling civilization bit by bit — replacing what works with what sounds good.

Some people are wondering what takes so long for the negotiations about the "fiscal cliff." Maybe both sides are waiting for supplies. Democrats may be waiting for more cans to kick down the road. Republicans may be waiting for more white flags to hold up in surrender.

If I were rich, I would have a plaque made up, and sent to every judge in America, bearing a statement made by Adam Smith more than two and a half centuries ago: "Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent."

If someone wrote a novel about a man who was raised from childhood to resent the successful and de-

spise the basic values of America — and who then went on to become President of the United States — that novel would be considered too unbelievable, even for a work of fiction. Yet that is what has happened in real life.

Many people say, "War should be a last resort." Of course it should be a last resort. So should heart surgery, divorce and many other things. But that does not mean that we should just continue to hope against hope indefinitely that things will work out, somehow, until catastrophe suddenly overtakes us.

Everybody is talking about how we are going to pay for the huge national debt, but nobody seems to be talking about the runaway spending which created that record-breaking debt. In other words, the big spenders get political benefits from handing out goodies, while those who resist giving them more money to spend will be blamed for sending the country off the "fiscal cliff."

When Barack Obama refused to agree to a requested meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — the leader of a country publicly and repeatedly threatened with annihilation by Iran's leaders, as the Iranians move toward creating nuclear bombs — I thought of a line from the old movie classic "Citizen Kane": "Charlie wasn't cruel. He just did cruel things."

There must be something liberating about ignorance. Back when most members of Congress had served in the military, there was a reluctance of politicians to try to tell military leaders how to run the military services. But, now that few members of Congress have ever served in the military, they are ready to impose all sorts of fashionable notions on the military.

After watching a documentary about the tragic story of Jonestown, I was struck by the utterly unthinking way that so many people put themselves completely at the mercy of a glib and warped man, who led them to degradation and destruction. And I could not help thinking of the parallel with the way we put a glib and warped man in the White House.

There are people calling for the banning of assault weapons who could not define an "assault weapon" if their life depended on it. Yet the ignorant expect others to take them seriously.

Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305. His website is www.tsowell.com. To find out more about Thomas Sowell and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

OTHER VOICES

Dec. 17

Kansas City (Mo.) Star on AIG bailout paid off for U.S. taxpayers:

Not much is heard these days about the bailout of American International Group. We're more likely to see stories about bailout recipients with continuing problems, such as GM, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. But AIG was perhaps the most spectacular — and outrageous — exemplar of the panic of 2008 and excesses of Wall Street.

The reason AIG hasn't been much in the news is because the news of AIG has been remarkably good. The company, which at one point was propped up by a \$182 billion Treasury commitment, is making money. And now it's clear that Uncle Sam will make money on his "investment."

The Treasury Department says it soon plans to unload what's left of its AIG holdings. This won't be

the government's first sale of its AIG stake, but all told, it expects to show a net return of more than \$15 billion.

AIG was only one of many companies to which cash was shoveled four years ago, when it looked as if the entire global financial system was at risk. But it was AIG that seemed to generate the greatest public resentment.

Small wonder. ...

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress that while he concluded the AIG bailout was necessary because of the threat to the overall economic system, it still made him livid. Thanks to AIG's reckless underwriting of credit-default swaps, regulators feared that a collapse would trigger a contagion that could bring down its network of counterparties and cripple the global economy for years. ...

Some 'hot' expressions better left unsaid by all



KATHLEEN PARKER

'Tis the season when columnists write mea culpas, make predictions and list their resolutions.

Since my culpas are too vast for this tiny space, my predictions best in retrospect and my resolutions inevitably ignored, I thought I'd list a few resolutions for the rest of the world. These, too, are likely to be ignored, but I'll feel better getting a few things off my chest.

Herewith, what annoys me most:

Hot.

Can we please shelve this awful word as used by adults to refer to others? What happened to "attractive" or "fascinating"? If you're 18 or younger, I suppose one can be forgiven for recognizing a person of interest in terms of hotness, but nothing is less attractive than adult men and women appraising others as "hot" (or not) at a certain age, which should be about the time one is old enough to vote.

Hotness, as I understand it, essentially

refers to another's worthiness to bed. This is not, in the world I prefer to live in, subject matter for dinner conversation.

In a related matter, let's not ...

Man up.

How many times during recent elections have we heard candidates refer to others' need to "man up"? This was especially jarring when women used the term to refer to their male opponents, as when Nevada Republican Sharron Angle told Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to man up during a debate.

Sarah Palin, who wasn't running for anything, nevertheless questioned President Obama's manhood, saying that Arizona Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, thanks to her tough immigration bill, "has the cojones that our president does not have." Classy.

In an ad, Colorado Republican Jane Norton said her primary opponent for the U.S. Senate, Ken Buck, should be "man enough" to do his own campaign dirty work.

And so on.

What comparable insult might men bestow on women? "Woman up" has no parallel meaning, but one can imagine that challenging a woman's "womanhood," whatever that might mean (fertility? femininity?), would not go over well.

Buck did manage to produce a weak re-

joinder, urging voters to choose him because "I don't wear high heels."

OK, well, this is cutting right to the core of voter concerns. A manly Buck versus a stiletto-ed femme. It is little wonder that Coloradoans decided to legalize pot. How else to get through such mind-boggling debate? Whatever voters had in mind when they elected Buck, they can't have felt elevated by their choices.

And little wonder young Americans end all their sentences with *question marks*. No list would be complete without mention of the annoying habit of the young to state declarative sentences as queries. Though not new, this tic has become so commonplace that one worries it may have become permanently entrenched in the language.

Simple grammar: A declarative statement ends with a period. The voice does not rise as with a question, punctuated with a question mark. Yet several times a day, a young person speaks to me in question marks.

"So, I ran into Jeff? And he was, like, wow, you cut your hair? And I was, like, I know, right?"

The only alternative to the persistent query is the occasional exclamation: "OMG. He is so hot!"

I have no idea what the statement-question reveals, but it seems to be connected to

some desire to not be judgmental. And this seems to be tied to the generational proclivity to perceive all things as relative. As in, I am so totally not, like, committed to anything that could possibly be construed as slightly offensive to anyone anywhere that I will say even obviously true things so as to indicate my willingness to be persuaded, like, otherwise?

No problem.

Which is, I promise, my last nit. "No problem" seems now to be the customary reply to "thank you." As opposed to the previously accepted "You're welcome" or "My pleasure."

"Thanks so much for the excellent service," I say to the waiter. "No problem," he says.

What does this mean? That it wasn't all that much trouble? Or, that service is a problem to be solved?

Doing something for someone in the line of duty or out of the goodness of one's heart is not a problem solved. It is a gift, a gesture, a sentiment. And when someone expresses gratitude for that gesture, it is customary to acknowledge that you were happy to extend the pleasure, not that it wasn't too bad for you.

Which is to say, you're welcome.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Hillary Clinton hospitalized with blood clot

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was admitted to a New York hospital Sunday after the discovery of a blood clot stemming from the concussion she sustained earlier this month.

Clinton's doctors discovered the clot Sunday while performing a follow-up exam, her spokesman, Philippe Reines, said. He would not elaborate on the location of the clot but said Clinton is being treated with anti-coagulants and would remain at New York-Presbyterian Hospital for at least the next 48 hours so doctors can monitor the medication.

"Her doctors will continue to assess her condition, including other issues associated with her concussion," Reines said in a statement. "They will determine if any further action is required."

Clinton, 65, fell and suffered a concussion while at home alone in mid-December as she recovered from a stomach virus that left her severely dehydrated. The concussion was diagnosed Dec. 13 and Clinton was forced to cancel a trip to North Africa and the Middle East that had been planned for the next week.

The seriousness of a blood clot "depends on where it is," said Dr. Gholam Motamedi, a neurologist at Georgetown University Medical Center who was not involved in Clinton's care.

Clots in the legs are a common risk after someone has been bedridden, as Clinton may have been for a time after her concussion. Those are "no big deal" and are treated with six months of blood thinners to allow them to dissolve on their own and to prevent further clots from forming, he said.

A clot in a lung or the brain is more serious.

Lung clots, called pulmonary embolisms, can be deadly, and a clot in the brain can cause a stroke, Motamedi said.

Keeping Clinton in the hospital for a couple of days could allow doctors to perform more tests to determine why the clot formed, and to rule out a heart problem or other condition that may have led to it, he said.

Dr. Larry Goldstein, a neurologist who is director of Duke University's stroke center, said blood can pool on the surface of the brain or in other areas of the brain after a concussion, but those would not be treated with blood thinners, as Clinton's aide described.

Clinton was forced to cancel Dec. 20 testimony before Congress about a scathing report into the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

The report found that serious failures of leadership and management in two State Department bureaus were to blame for insufficient security at the facility. Clinton took responsibility for the incident before the report was released, but she was not blamed.

Some conservative commentators suggested Clinton was faking the seriousness of her illness and concussion to avoid testifying, although State Department officials vehemently denied that was the case.

Lawmakers at the hearings —

including Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman who has been nominated by President Barack Obama to succeed Clinton — offered her their best wishes.

Last Thursday, before the discovery of the blood clot, Reines said Clinton was expected to return to work this week.

The former first lady and senator, who had always planned to step down as America's top diplomat in January, is known for her grueling travel schedule.

She is the most traveled secretary of state in history, having visited 112 countries while in the job.

Clinton is considered a front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, although she has not announced plans to run.

VIGIL

FROM 1A

someone suffering with a mental illness. There are many afraid a loved one's illness could lead to a personal tragedy, not even one of the magnitude caused by Adam Lanza at Sandy Hook Elementary.

"Avielle Richman ... Lauren Rousseau ... Mary Sherlach ... Victoria Soto ... Benjamin Wheeler ... Allison N. Wyatt."

With the list of names read, Pastor Chuck Hamiton of the Upper Room Fellowship reminded those in attendance to love their loved ones and provide forgiveness.

He asked them to help those in the community who have never had a chance to know God and his love.

"We may not be able to go into

our schools and pray," Hamilton said. "But we need to cover our schools with prayer."

A poem by an unknown author titled "Sandy Hook Elementary School" was also read aloud. It reminded the 75 or so people in attendance that the 20 small children who died that day are in heaven and there people are coming to God for answers.

At the beginning of the service,

which was held by the Columbiana Christian Ministerial Association, Pastor Jan Winnale of the Columbiana Church of the Nazarene said there are too many instances of children dying by violence. He listed statistics he had found, including five children dying from child abuse each day nationwide.

He suggested we remember not only the children of Sandy Hook,

but also children in the local community who may be dealing with abuse or neglect.

At the end of the service two hymns were sung on the sidewalk in front of the theater.

It was a cold, wintry night and the families in attendance huddled together with the candles each person held flickering in the wind.

djohnson@mojoneews.com

CLIFF

FROM 1A

Monday, and \$109 billion in across-the-board cuts in federal spending this year would also begin this week.

Workers could see more taxes withheld from their paychecks and federal agencies are likely to soon receive warning of possible furloughs if lawmakers fail to reach a deal to avert the cliff.

The new Congress will be sworn in on Thursday and would inherit the problem if the current crop of lame-duck lawmakers can't find an answer before then.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said the two sides remained at odds over the income threshold for higher tax rates and tax levels on large estates. Republicans said that Democratic demands for new money to prevent a cut in Medicare payments to doctors and renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed should be financed with cuts elsewhere in the budget. Republicans also balked at a Democratic proposal to use new tax revenues to shut off the across-the-board spending cuts, known as a sequester in

Washington-speak.

President Barack Obama, in a televised interview, blamed Republicans for putting the nation's shaky economy at risk.

"We have been talking to the Republicans ever since the election was over," Obama said in the interview that was taped Saturday and aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "They have had trouble saying yes to a number of repeated offers."

"The mood is discouraged," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut independent who caucuses with Democrats. "The parties are much further apart than I hoped they'd be by now."

The pessimistic turn came as the House and Senate returned to the Capitol for a rare Sunday session. Reid and McConnell had hoped to have a blueprint to present to their rank and file by mid-afternoon.

McConnell and Reid were hoping for a deal that would prevent higher taxes for most Americans while letting rates rise at higher income levels, although the precise point at which that would occur was a sticking

point.

Obama had wanted to raise the top tax rate on individuals making more than \$200,000 a year and families making more than \$250,000 from 35 percent to 39.6 percent. In talks with Republican House Speaker John Boehner, he offered to raise that threshold to \$400,000.

The estate tax issue was particularly tricky since several Democrats, including veterans like Max Baucus of Montana, disagree with Obama's proposal to increase the top estate tax rate from 35 percent to 45 percent.

Republicans said Democrats pressed to turn off more than \$200 billion in the across-the-board spending cuts over the coming two years. This so-called sequester is the punishment for last year's deficit "super-committee" failure to strike a deal.

Hopes for blocking across-the-board spending cuts were fading and Obama's proposal to renew the 2-percentage-point payroll tax cut wasn't even part of the discussion.

Obama pressed lawmakers

to start where both sides say they agree — sparing middle-class families from looming tax hikes.

"If we can get that done, that takes a big bite out of the fiscal cliff. It avoids the worst outcomes. And we're then going to have some tough negotiations in terms of how we continue to reduce the deficit, grow the economy, create jobs," Obama said in the NBC interview.

Gone is the talk of a grand deal that would tackle broad spending and revenue demands and set the nation on a course to lower deficits. Obama and Boehner were once a couple hundred billion dollars apart on a deal that would have reduced the deficit by more than \$2 trillion over 10 years.

Republicans have complained that Obama has demanded too much in tax revenue and hasn't proposed sufficient cuts or savings in the nation's massive health care programs.

Obama upped the pressure on Republicans to negotiate a fiscal deal, arguing that GOP leaders have rejected his past attempts to strike a bigger and more

comprehensive bargain.

"The offers that I've made to them have been so fair that a lot of Democrats get mad at me," Obama said.

Boehner disagreed, saying Sunday that the president had been unwilling to agree to anything "that would require him to stand up to his own party."

The trimmed ambitions of today are a far cry from the upbeat bipartisan rhetoric of just six weeks ago, when the leadership of Congress went to the White House to set the stage for negotiations to come.

But the deal under discussion Sunday appeared unlikely to settle other outstanding issues, including the sequester, which would total more than \$1 trillion in cuts over 10 years, divided equally between the Pentagon and other government agencies. And off the table completely is an extension of the nation's borrowing limit, which the government is on track to reach any day but which the Treasury can put off through accounting measures for about two months.

That means Obama and the Congress are already on

IMPACT

FROM 1A

and it's now clear, similar to what happened last year in August 2011, the early August 2012 data were distorted by changes in the scheduling of the model changeover process in the automobile industry, Zeller said.

It's a distortion that has disappeared from the current data and the state layoff figures took a noticeable turn for the worse once again in the Dec. 27 update.

"The Ohio data are clearly worse than mixed but slightly positive data that was released this morning at the national level by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics," Zeller said, adding there is a new factor to be considered.

"Annual Christmas holiday shutdowns in the automobile industry have a startling impact in counties with large automobile assembly plants such as Lucas and Trumbull counties.

The earlier apparent improvement in the Ohio data during early August 2012 is

now known to have been impacted by the same seasonal distortion that Ohio saw last year in 2011 from the model changeover period in the automobile industry, Zeller explained.

"This, of course, is a discouraging development."

Zeller's reports are designed to measure the point at which Ohio's lengthy 2000s recessionary contraction in its labor market finally comes to an end as a result of the end of job destruction within the state.

"This week's report finds that despite substantial improvement measured during the last three weeks of January 2011, job destruction returned to Ohio during all weeks of February through July 2011, and that the lengthy 2000-2011 period of job destruction in Ohio did not come to an end, given additional deterioration during the last two weeks of August 2011, and during all weeks of from September through December 2011.

This past week, massive deterioration in Youngstown-Warren re-

turned the Mahoning Valley to a "job destruction" level of current new unemployment claims for the eighth consecutive week.

Further, Youngstown-Warren soared from the lowest elevated level of new unemployment claims among Ohio's seven large urban regions last week, to the highest elevated level among those regions this week.

This startling change is associated with annual patterns at the Lordstown General Motors assembly plant, he said, explaining the seasonal shutdown around Christmas of the plant was the cause of this stunning pattern change.

"Thus, none of Ohio's large urban regions reduced their current level of new unemployment claims into the 'job growth' level this week."

In better news, Ohio ex-

perienced a 2011-2012 decrease of -2.0 percent in its level of unemployment claims this year in comparison to last year, a sharp deterioration from last week's figure that was -12.5 percent.

Ohio had 16,469 new unemployment claims during the fourth week of December 2012 last year.

New data in Thursday's update finds that Ohio had 15,990 new unemployment claims during the fourth week of December 2012.

The fact that Ohio's current level of new unemployment claims still exceeds the 1999 "job growth" benchmark is a highly negative figure, despite the new slight 2011-2012 decline.

For more information, visit: www.georgezeller.com/newclaims122212.pdf.

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Happy New Year from FRC

By DR. MICHAEL J. TRAINA
Family Recovery Center Volunteer

Here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year from the Family Recovery Center, its director, staff and myself.

Last year, I began this writing stating it may be my final year for a New Year's column for the Family Recovery Center after about 15 years. Thankfully, the ancient Aztecs and Mayan prediction of an Apocalypse did not occur on December 21, 2012, and I have been given the "go ahead" by the director. We history buffs, enjoyed the folklore and Internet ramblings before the specific date of 12/21/12 and certainly after the quiet passing of the long-awaited event.

If you are like me, we wonder where the time has gone. Another year, a few more gray hairs, and less of it. Several new teeth, and two new eyes. Things are ever-changing. Monitoring my weight and cholesterol are part of the daily routine. Ask my wife how meticulous I am about these two tasks!

This year the director of the Family Recovery Center stated she would like to see some words on New Year's resolutions. My comments to this request, probably the annual poll the Salem News puts out — they usually don't work. The only resolution most people should make is not to make New Years' Resolutions. We are caught up in the frenzy and don't put a great deal of thought into it.

The reason most people fail is because they do not make a written commitment with a understanding for doing something. Incidentally, you can start the journey to success at any time. It does not have to begin on New Years Day. Only begin on January 1 if you have a well thought- out written plan and specific end result rewards of the plan.

By far, the most popular New Years' resolution is to lose weight so I will use this as an example of how to set and attain goals. First, it is imperative that the goal is yours. You will not reach a goal if you are doing something because someone else feels you should. It will become an immense struggle and hardship because you are not totally committed to it. In the end, the goal will not be accomplished.

Second, you have to know why you want to set a particular goal. To say you want to lose weight is not enough. You have to list the reasons why you want to do something and the rewards you will get from reaching the goal. You cannot reach a goal without giving yourself a reward.

The biggest mistake most people make is not having a written plan for goal attainment. Most people defeat themselves before they even begin. Why? Because you overwhelm yourself by the magnitude of the goal. For example, you tell yourself that the goal is to lose twenty pounds. WRONG! What you should state as the goal is what weight you want to reach. For example, you weigh 160 pounds and want to weigh 140 pounds. You must key in on the number 140. Write out 140 and put it away.

In you concentrate on losing 20 pounds, you will defeat yourself and make the process a struggle and consider it a hardship. In other words, you are fighting yourself rather than working towards a reward. Isn't it much easier to go from 160 to 159 rather than 160 to 140? So, for example, your short-term goal should be stated as such: "My goal for this week is to weigh 159 pounds." You can go from 160 to 159, not from 160 to 140.

If you concentrate on getting to 140, you will never have the satisfaction of reaching a goal. But, if you concentrate on going to 159, you will have a feeling of satisfaction and be more motivated to take the next step to 158. And next, is the most important idea you will ever hear.

Success is in the journey and not the destination! If you continually think of the end (140), you are, in fact, telling yourself that you are a failure unto you reach 140 (and you probably won't). You will become unmotivated and quickly become discouraged. But, if you concentrate on one step at a time and reach the weekly goal you are, and will consider yourself a success. When you go from 160 to 159, you have attained a goal, and to that point in life you are a success.

Most people, on the thing called a diet, play the martyrdom game. They continually think of what they can't do or have rather than think of the positive results. For example, "I can't have a piece of blueberry pie" should be turned into, "If I don't have the pie, I'm getting closer to my goal." Just think how good you'll feel about yourself as your reach each short term goal. And, you'll continually increase your motivation.

DO NOT USE THE TERM DIET. This word is negative and implies the martyrdom or sacrifice. We always want to emphasize the positive. So, instead of saying you are on a diet, tell yourself you are on a journey to success. "I am becoming the person I want to be" is what you should tell yourself. You are not losing weight, you are on a journey to success.

Check with your physician and develop your program. As for me, I've found things I like and are conducive to weight control and cholesterol reduction.

Also, and to be humble about it, I'm a decent cook to the disappointment to the director of FRC, who is not as big a fan as I am of non-fat pudding, eggplant and no-fat salad dressing. You'll find what you should avoid and some thought and creativity will make for a good experience. Is it difficult? Yes. Is it rewarding? Yes. You have to be willing to pay the price.

My annual harangue about our two minor league teams, the Cleveland Indians and Browns is with us. I do not think the grandchildren really believe me when I tell them how many championships the Browns won when I was growing up in Cleveland. Headlines from the north are not always challenging or exciting. Thankfully, for the Salem News we get a good overview of what happens with these two teams.

The International Festival, sponsored by the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce was spoiled again by the weather. As master of ceremonies, along with my partner Rita Joseph O'Leary, we find it very unmotivational speaking to empty chairs being rained upon. Hopefully, this year the Festival will have good weather. Anyone caring to volunteer to help out is welcome. Just call the Chamber.

In closing, we hope you had a good 2012, and that 2013 will be even better. Happy New Year!

'Baby Boomers' exhibit on display at the Salem Historical Society

SALEM — Where else can you see a vintage 1950 aluminum tree next to a life-sized Barbie? Come see and hear the baby boomer generation with "Toys and Tunes of the Boomers."

The display of toys will be open as one of the venues for New Year's Eve Salem 4 to 8 p.m. today in the meeting room of the Dale Shaffer Research Library, 239 South Lundy Avenue.

The number one songs from the year 1946 to 1964 will be the backdrop music for the event.

Pizza, pop and potato chips (the three P's of the baby boomers) will be available (\$1.50 a slice for the pizza, \$1 for a bag of chips and \$1 for a can of pop). Tickets for the seven venues are available for \$8 at the door.

For a complete listing of venues, check www.newyearsevesalem.com for scheduled times and locations.

For those unable to view this exhibit during New Year's Eve, it will be open to the public from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6.

SALEM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Successful sleep resolutions for the New Year

Staying up late to attend holiday parties and then sleeping in the next day are often ways that we celebrate at the end of a year. However, these interruptions to our regular sleep schedule can be enough to throw off our biological clocks.

"A person's sleep often suffers during the holidays," explained. Malinda Miller, RRT, RPSGT, Sleep Lab Supervisor of the Salem Sleep Center. "There is so much to do that it's easy to think that you will catch up on your sleep later. However, it should come as no surprise that people are committing less time for sleep and when they do sleep, it's of poor quality."

"This lack of sleep has been shown to impact motivation, concentration, energy, and weight gain. By making a commitment to sleep, your other New Year's resolutions will be easier to keep. For example, you will have more energy to exercise and your motivation will be higher not to smoke. You may also be less hungry, which makes it easier to lose weight. In addition, cognitive thinking skills may increase and make it easier to get more organized."

New Year's Eve and Sleep

"During the New Year's Eve holiday, several factors can trigger a short-term sleep problem or aggravate a chronic sleep disorder," Miller continued. "Many people suffer for an extended period of time from the sleep debt they accumulate on this one night. The combination of late hours, drinking alcohol or eating rich foods before bedtime, can all have a dramatic impact on sleep patterns that may persist for weeks after the holiday is over. This can be particularly harmful for people who already suffer from insomnia or other sleep disorders."

Inadequate sleep is associated with a wide range of problems, including difficulty concentrating, reduced productivity, complication of serious health conditions including depression and hypertension, and increased risk of job- and highway-related accidents.

"You can have fun on New Year's Eve while reducing the damage that the holiday's excesses can wage on your sleep," said Miller.

— Plan a nap if you will be out late: Take a nap earlier in the day to cushion sleep loss, but no longer than 30 minutes.

— Taper off drinking late into the evening. Alcohol consumption, particularly in excess or close to bedtime, produces fitful sleep that is marked by multiple wakings and an inability to transition or stay in the more restorative stages of sleep. Also, try to avoid caffeinated beverages, like cola, tea or coffee as these will also negatively affect sleep.

— Eat a full meal at dinnertime. Overeating or ingesting rich foods late in the evening closer to bedtime may disrupt sleep. For example, digestion turns foods into sugars that can energize the body and wake you in the middle of the night. Likewise, the discomfort of a full stomach or indigestion from fatty or spicy foods can keep you awake.

— Make sure that you get a full night of sleep in subsequent days. Many people complicate short-term sleep deprivation by turning it into a habit. "By committing to regular sleep in the days following New Year's Eve, you can help to eliminate any New-Year's-related sleep debt," Miller advised. "However, those who experience sleep disturbances for more than a few weeks should see their doctor to help them restore normal sleep habits."

The Best Time for a Successful Sleep Resolution Is Now

The winter months — January, February, and March — mark a great time to make a commitment to getting enough sleep.

Social activities around the holidays are over and we tend to spend more time at home.

With shorter days and more darkness, we often get sleepier earlier in the day, making it easier to fall asleep when it is time for bed. Increased darkness also allows us to produce melatonin naturally, which makes us drowsy and promotes good sleep.

Seven Tips for Successful Sleep Resolutions in the New Year

1. *No technology in the bedroom:* You'll sleep much better if you shut off

everything — laptop, cell phone, tablet, or e-reader, and don't allow these devices in your bedroom. In addition, tell your children that research has shown that if they keep electronics out of the bedroom and get to bed on time they may do better on tests, have higher GPAs and more energy for activities.

2. *Relax before bed:* According to the National Sleep Foundation, during the hour before bed, around 60 percent of women do household chores, 37 percent take care of children, 36 percent do activities with other family members, 36 percent are on the Internet, and 21 percent do work related to their jobs. Make sure to set that one hour aside so that when the day is over, you're ready for bed.

3. *Watch the clock:* You must make a time commitment for both quantity and quality sleep, which means no late nights.

4. *Get the right sleep tools:* Make sure you have a comfortable mattress and pillow that allow you to sleep without discomfort. This will make it easier to fall and stay asleep.

5. *Keep cool:* Make sure the room temperature is cool at 65 to 68 degrees. This is key because in order to fall asleep and maintain sleep we need a decrease in core body temperature.

6. *Fit in a siesta:* Studies show that a 30 minute nap between 1 and 4 p.m., will reduce your sleep debt, boost your productivity, and not affect your sleep at night.

7. *Exercise:* Exercise can effectively improve sleep. Studies from the University of Arizona show that women who walked short distances, such as just six blocks at a normal pace during the day, found their sleep significantly improved.

Regular exercise reduces the time it takes to get to sleep by 12 minutes, and increases total sleep time by up to 42 minutes.

Malinda Miller, RRT, RPSGT, is the Sleep Lab Supervisor at the Salem Sleep Center, located in the Salem Medical Center, 2094 East State Street. For more information about the Salem Sleep Center, call 330- 332-7796.

Fire turns into probe of drugs, alleged assault

By RICHARD SBERNA

Special to the Salem News

WELLSVILLE — What began with a call to the Wellsville Fire Department for a vehicle fire has turned into a police investigation of an assault and suspected drug activity.

Firefighters were called to the home of Josh Hackney and Jodi Long at 305 18th St., at 5:21 a.m. Christmas Day. Upon arrival, they found a 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer parked in the driveway engulfed in flames. The fire was brought under control before it could spread to the house, but a pair of nearby trees were scorched.

Although the fire was out by 6:30 a.m., an accusation that it had been de-

liberately set would lead to a spasm of violence at another village home.

Police were dispatched to the Lincoln Avenue home of Roxanna Corbisello at 3:55 p.m. Officers reportedly found Corbisello's son, R.D. McCauley, beaten and lying on the floor. McCauley told police he had been to the home of Hackney and Long, where he was met by Daryl and Joe Blake. The Blake brothers accused him of stealing their drugs and setting fire to their Trailblazer, prompting them to assault him.

McCauley alleged that Hackney told the Blake brothers that McCauley had burned their vehicle and stolen the missing drugs. In turn, McCauley blamed Hackney for the theft and fire.

Officers went to the home of Hackney and Long, and spoke to Long. She told police she didn't know where the Blake brothers were, but also admitted they had told her to tell anyone asking about them that she didn't know their whereabouts. Although what actually transpired in still under investigation, police Lt. Ed Wilson said Hackney's neighbors on 18th Street suspect that drug transactions have been taking place at the residence.

Citing concerns about the couple's children in relation to the fire, violence and drugs, police contacted Children Services. Wilson said it is unknown if the children were removed from the home.

Deal to build ethane plant not yet complete

Special to the Salem News

MONACA, PA. — Officials in West Virginia and Ohio pointed fingers and cast blame on one another upon learning in March that Royal Dutch Shell planned to build a multibillion-dollar ethane cracker in Pennsylvania.

But Shell has yet to acquire the land in the Keystone State from Horsehead Corp.— a company in the process of moving its zinc production operations from Monaca, Pa., to North Carolina. Horsehead and Shell officials said Wednesday the oil and natural gas giant has six more months to decide whether to complete the deal to buy the land along the Ohio River for the large petrochemical complex.

The original terms of the deal called for Shell to complete the purchase from Horsehead by the end of 2012.

"We are still in the assessment phase of the project to determine the site's suitability. Among the many factors we continue to assess are the ethane feedstock supply, engineering and design work, customer support confirmation for our products, permit approvals and confirmation that the project is economically robust and competitive," Shell spokeswoman Kayla Macke said on Wednesday.

During a conference in Pittsburgh earlier this year, Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley said the commonwealth was glad to be chosen as Shell's pre-

ferred site, but he acknowledged that local and state government issues still needed to be resolved before construction would begin.

For months in 2011 and early 2012, officials in Ohio and West Virginia worked to secure the large petrochemical plant because they said it should generate about 10,000 construction jobs, hundreds of high-paying chemical jobs and thousands of related development jobs.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich flew to Houston to meet with Shell officials to try to attract the cracker plant, while West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin and Secretary of Commerce Keith Burdette also actively worked to entice Shell to build in the Mountain State.

Immediately upon learning Shell likely would build at Monaca, Pa., public officials and industry leaders in both Ohio and West Virginia began criticizing one another for failing to attract the cracker plant.

Officials believe Shell's preferred West Virginia location would have encroached on land owned by Mountaineer Casino Racetrack and Resort. In addition to the costs of building a new facility, Mountaineer would face a vote regarding the use of its gambling devices if it needed to move outside Hancock County.

Ohio officials indicated Shell was interested in building the plant in Belmont County south of Bridgeport along

the Ohio River.

Reasons West Virginia and Ohio officials cited for losing the cracker to Pennsylvania included problems with labor unions, tax structures, railroad connections and access to a direct supply of ethane from Shell's Keystone State natural gas operations.

In addition to ethane, other natural gas liquids produced in the wet Marcellus and Utica shale gas include propane, butane and pentane.

These elements must be stripped away from the dry methane natural gas at processing plants such as the soon-to-open Dominion Resources Natrium facility so the methane can be sold by utility companies.

Once separated from the gas stream, the propane and butane will be kept in tanks on the Dominion site to be marketed. However, this cannot be done with ethane because of the product's volatility, so Dominion is looking to ship the ethane to a user.

Because there is no ethane cracker in the Utica and Marcellus regions, some companies are now shipping the product for cracking at facilities in Canada or along the Gulf Coast.

Although Shell announced plans to build in Pennsylvania, Aither Chemicals recently signed an agreement with Bayer Corp. to "determine the market interest for chemicals and plastics" for an ethane cracker that would be built in the Charleston area.

Vega recalls 30,000-plus motorcycle helmets

By The Associated Press

Vega Helmet Corp. is recalling more than 30,000 XTS motorcycle helmets after testing found that a few did not meet crash protection safety standards.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said people using the helmets may not be adequately protected in a crash.

The recall will start in late January and centers on large, extra-large and extra-extra-large (or XXL) helmets. The models in question were made between May 2011 and last October, according to a notice posted Saturday on

the NHTSA's web site.

Vega, based in Tukwila, Wash., said it will replace the recalled helmets.

The NHTSA told Vega that four extra-large helmets didn't meet safety standards when tested earlier this year. The company investigated and found that the helmets fell out of compliance partially due to changes in the model's shell design.

Vega told regulators that the helmet's design would be reconfigured immediately.

Vega doesn't know how many of the helmets in the recalled population

failed to meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard so the company is recalling all of them, according to a letter from an attorney representing the company to an NHTSA official.

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MON/31

LEETONIA

New Year's Eve dance, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Leetonia Eagles Club; \$3 for non-members. Music by Driving Force.

NORTH LIMA

New Year's Eve Victory Gospel Jubilee, 7 p.m., North Lima Business Complex. Buffet dinner by the Hen House Cafe, 5:30-7:30 p.m., \$12. Reservations and free Jubilee tickets, 800-284-9709.

SALEM

New Year's Eve Salem at the Masonic Temple, 788 E. State St. Turkey dinners, sandwiches, sides and pizza, beginning at 4:30 p.m. The Stockdale Family Band, The Allegheny Drifters, and Zack Paxton, rotating from 6-10:50 p.m.

Banquet in Salem, 5-7 p.m., Memorial Building; pork loin and sauerkraut. Butch Hallowell will perform Christmas carols.

New Year's Eve party, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 892, 496 Arch St. Music by Damaged Goods; \$5 for non-members.

Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

New Year's Eve dance, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Slovak Club, 313 S. Ellsworth Ave.; cash bar. Admission free to members, \$5 for non-members. Party favors and food included; tickets, 330-337-8067.

SALINEVILLE

Salineville Kiwanis meeting, canceled.

TUE/1

LEETONIA

Leetonia High School Class of 1951, no meeting.

SALEM

Salem Community Pantry, closed today.

Black powder shoot, Salem Hunting Club, range opens 6 p.m., event starts at 7 p.m.

WED/2

HANOVERTON

United High School Class of 1963, lunch, noon, Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

LEETONIA

Book discussion, Anita Shreve's "Light on Snow," 10 a.m., Leetonia Community Public Library.

Toddler Playgroup, 10 a.m., Leetonia Community Public Library.

Leetonia High School Class of 1949, lunch, noon, Smokhouse restaurant in Greenford.

Village Council, 7 p.m., Village Hall.

LISBON

Area Singles, meeting, 6 p.m., Shale Tavern.

SALEM

TOPS 777, weigh-ins 5:30-6:15 p.m., meeting 6:20 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 251 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-332-1280.

City Council meeting, 7 p.m., council chambers, city hall.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (Al-Anon), 7:30 p.m., Episcopal Church; 330-831-4983 or 330-332-8233 after 6 p.m.

SEBRING

Al-Anon meetings, Pine Lake Christian Church, 636 Pine Lake Road. Beginner's meeting, 6:30 p.m.; regular meeting, 7 p.m.

WASHINGTONVILLE

Robbins United Methodist Church's "Soup to Go," canceled.

THU/3

DAMASCUS

TOPS Chapter 1329, 9 a.m., Damascus United Methodist Church; 330-525-7785.

LEETONIA

Red Cross blood drive, 12:30-

5:30 p.m.; blood pressure screening, 1-3 p.m.; Leetonia Community Public Library.

SALEM

Salem Board of Education organizational meeting, 7:30 a.m., administration building.

TOPS 1598, 9:50 a.m., First United Methodist Church. Weigh-ins, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; 330-332-1127. Handicap accessible.

Chicken on the Run, drive-thru chicken dinners, 4-6 p.m. or until sold out, \$7; First United Methodist Church,

Overeaters Anonymous, 6 p.m., Faith Chapel, 511 E. Pershing St.; 330-853-9311.

Salem Bird Study Club, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 436 E. Second St.; use rear entrance.

WINONA

Winona Area Historical Society, meeting, 6:30 p.m., basement of the Winona Meeting House.

FRI/4

NEGLEY

American Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., and open house, Negley Masonic Lodge, 50873 Richardson Ave.; appointments, redcrossblood.org or 800-733-2767.

SALEM

Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

Bingo, 6:45 p.m., Salem Little Quakers Hall, 1688 S. Lincoln Ave.

Addiction recovery, open meeting, 7 p.m., Faith Chapel, 511 E. Pershing St.; 330-332-8573.

WASHINGTONVILLE

Fish fry, 4-7:30 p.m., Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5532. Cost \$8.50; carryouts, 330-427-2533.

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Pharmacy Technician

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

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Calendar

THIS WEEK . . .

LEETONIA

Leetonia Exempted Village Board of Education, 6:30 p.m., K-12 Campus Room 20.

SALEM

Kaiser/National retirees and past employees, breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Adele's Place.

TOPS 1598, 9:50 a.m., First United Methodist Church. Weigh-ins, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; 330-332-1127. Handicap accessible.

Overeaters Anonymous, 6 p.m., Faith Chapel, 511 E. Pershing St.; 330-853-9311.

Salem High School Class of 1968, 45th reunion planning meeting, Alumni Association, 6 p.m.

WASHINGTONVILLE

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5532, meeting, 6 p.m.

FRI/11

LEETONIA

"Breakfast at Tiffany's," 1 p.m., Leetonia Community Public Library.

SALEM

Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

Bingo, 6:45 p.m., Salem Little Quakers Hall, 1688 S. Lincoln Ave.

Addiction recovery, open meeting, 7 p.m., Faith Chapel, 511 E. Pershing St.; 330-332-8573.

SAT/12

BOARDMAN

Goodness Grows benefit, 5-10 p.m., Glenwood Christian Fellowship Cafe, 7872 Glenwood Ave.; 330-549-9408.

LISBON

Beaver Local High School Class of 1984's spaghetti dinner benefit for the Chuck Cornell family, 4-7 p.m., high school; donations, 330-801-2597. Monetary donations to: First National Community Bank, P.O. Box 769, East Liverpool 43920; checks payable to BLHS Class of 1984.

SUN/13

SALEM

Concealed carry class, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Salem Hunting Club. Pre-registration required; 330-332-9847.

Former A&P employees, dinner, 3 p.m., BB Rooners.

MON/14

COLUMBIANA

TOPS 720, Presbyterian Church, weigh-ins-9-9:35 a.m.; 330-482-5946.

LEETONIA

Nonfiction book discussion, P. Strathern's "The Artist, the Philosopher and the Warrior," 6 p.m., Leetonia Community Public Library.

LISBON

Public Employee Retirees #59, meeting, 1 p.m., Taste of Country.

Al-Anon meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

Alateen meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

SALEM

Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

SAT/5

GOSHEN TOWNSHIP

Board of trustees, 9 a.m., administration building.

SALEM

Salem Hunting Club, all-you-can-eat breakfast, 7-11 a.m., 549 Indiana Ave., \$5 donation. Includes eggs, pancakes, potatoes, bacon, toast, orange juice and a choice of hot beverages. Club officers will also be on hand to answer any questions related to membership or club activities.

Salem High School Class of 1972, breakfast, 9 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Salem High School Class of 1949, breakfast, 9:30 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

Salem High School Class of 1963, lunch, 11:30 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

SUN/6

SEBRING

American Legion Post 76, monthly breakfast, 8 a.m.-noon, post home, 395 W. California Ave.

MON/7

BEAVER TOWNSHIP

South Ranch Local Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., high school Band Room.

COLUMBIANA

TOPS 720, Presbyterian Church, weigh-ins-9-9:35 a.m.; 330-482-5946.

FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP

Fairfield-Waterford Class of 1959, dinner, 5:30 p.m., Pondi's in Lisbon.

LEETONIA

Restoration, Renovation, and Beautification Committee of Columbiana, meeting, 6:30 p.m., Columbiana Womens Club.

LISBON

Al-Anon meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

Alateen meeting, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Fleming House, 7300 Rose Drive.

SALEM

Food distribution, 9-11:30 a.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

R-Weigh weight groups, 1 and 5 p.m. meetings, First Friends Church, 1028 Jennings Ave.; 330-332-1078.

Emotions Anonymous, 2-3 p.m., Dunkin' Donuts; 330-332-1045.

TOPS 1380, 6:15 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 251 S. Broadway Ave.

Bingo, 6:45 p.m., Salem Little Quakers Hall, 1688 S. Lincoln Ave.; 330-332-2152.

TUE/8

LEETONIA

Leetonia Community Public Library Board of Trustees, 5:30 p.m., Leetonia Library.

Veterans Outpost support meetings, 7 p.m., Point Man's LZ Refuge, 116 1/2 Oak St.; 800-877-8387.

LISBON

Overeaters Anonymous, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Fleming House be-

hind McDonald's; 330-337-0940.

Salem-Lisbon La Leche League meeting, 7 p.m., New Lisbon Presbyterian Church, 111 E. Chestnut St.; 330-821-2585, 330-420-0822.

SALEM

United Quilt Guild, unfinished objects, 9:30 a.m.; meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Salem Community Hospital retirees and former employees, informal lunch, 11 a.m., Das Dutch Haus in Columbiana.

Rotary Club, lunch, 11:45 a.m., Salem Community Center.

Food distribution, 5-7:30 p.m., Salem Community Pantry, 794 E. Third St.

Salem High School Class of 1968, dinner, 6 p.m., Ricky's English Pub.

Salem Jubilee Chorus practice. Male singers wanted, 7-8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 244 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-337-6682.

WED/9

LEETONIA

Toddler Playgroup, 10 a.m., Leetonia Community Public Library.

LISBON

Area Singles, meeting, 6 p.m., Pondi's.

SALEM

Men of the Salem High School Class of 1960, lunch, noon, Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

TOPS 777, weigh-ins 5:30-6:15 p.m., meeting 6:20 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 251 S. Broadway Ave.; 330-332-1280.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (Al-Anon), 7:30 p.m., Episcopal Church; 330-831-4983 or 330-332-8233 after 6 p.m.

Salem High School Class of 1951, breakfast, 9 a.m., Skyline Diner.

Salem High School Class of 1956, bi-monthly luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

American Red Cross blood drive, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Salem Community Hospital's second floor classrooms; appointments 330-332-7227.

SEBRING

Al-Anon meetings, Pine Lake Christian Church, 636 Pine Lake Road. Beginner's meeting, 6:30 p.m.; regular meeting, 7 p.m.

THU/10

BELOIT

West Branch Local Board of Education, 6 p.m.; high school library.

DAMASCUS

TOPS Chapter 1329, 9 a.m., Damascus United Methodist Church; 330-525-7785.

HANOVERTON

United High School Class of 1960, breakfast, 9 a.m., Salem Hills Golf and Country Club.

United Local Board of Education, 7 p.m., high school library.

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

	2	6		3	1	4		
1				7			2	6
	8		2			9		3
		8			7	2		1
	5			4			6	
6		7	5			3		
4		2			3		9	
8	7			6				2
		3	7	2		6	8	

Rating: BRONZE

Solution to 12/29/12

4	8	5	9	3	1	7	6	2
9	2	7	4	5	6	1	3	8
3	1	6	8	2	7	4	5	9
5	7	9	3	8	4	2	1	6
6	4	8	1	9	2	3	7	5
2	3	1	7	6	5	9	8	4
7	5	3	6	4	9	8	2	1
8	9	2	5	1	3	6	4	7
1	6	4	2	7	8	5	9	3

12/31/12

ROSE BOWL
Tailbacks highlight
Wisconsin-Stanford. 3B

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SN SPORTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2012 ★ SALEM NEWS

► NFL — STEELERS TOP BROWNS IN SEASON FINALE 24-10

Turning the tables

In second meeting, it's Browns turnovers that lead to Pittsburgh victory



Take a bow
Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Plaxico Burress (80) bows after making a touchdown catch as Cleveland Browns cornerback Joe Haden (23) walks away in the fourth quarter Sunday in Pittsburgh. The Steelers won 24-10. (AP Photo)

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers remain convinced they're a tweak or two away from another Super Bowl run. The Cleveland Browns, meanwhile, are ready to start all over. Again.

There's nothing stopping

them now.

Ben Roethlisberger threw three short touchdown passes, and the Steelers avoided their first losing season in nearly a decade with a 24-10 victory over the Browns on Sunday in a meaningless finale that merely served as a speed bump to impending change for both franchises.

The Steelers (8-8), out of the playoffs for the first time since 2009, head into the offseason wondering how to address an aging — if still highly effective — defense while the Browns (5-11) get ready for another front office overhaul.

New owner Jimmy Haslam already pushed out team president Mike Holm-

gren, and there's a good chance general manager Tom Heckert and head coach Pat Shurmur will follow Holmgren out the door.

Shurmur — who is 9-23 in two seasons — gave an emotional postgame address to his players after another competitive game slipped away in the second half. While he hasn't spoken to

Haslam about his status, Shurmur could sense his tenure is now measured in hours, not years.

"We really did not win enough games and we're not competing next week," he said. "I was never really worried about (next year) and I have no regrets."

See STEELERS, 2B



Cleveland Browns head coach Pat Shurmur reacts after his quarterback is sacked during the fourth quarter against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh won 24-10. (AP Photo)

Browns headed for overhaul

Shurmur 'fights back tears' following loss to Steelers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Cleveland Browns coach Pat Shurmur addressed his team a little longer than usual after it closed its season with a 24-10 loss to the rival Steelers.

One player said he thought Shurmur was fighting back tears. Another said he had a personal message. Many reported that the second-year coach told the players how proud he was of them.

None would acknowledge, directly, that they expect Shurmur and general manager Tom Heckert to be fired on Monday.

But as receiver Joshua Cribbs said, the players on the 5-11 Browns aren't entirely oblivious, either.

"It's the NFL, this is business," Cribbs said. "It's not necessarily the feel... You just know."

Cleveland's third-string quarterback, Thaddeus Lewis, passed for 204 yards with a touchdown and an interception in his first NFL start. But the Browns dropped their third straight in what is likely Shurmur's final game on the sideline.

Shurmur insisted he had not spoken to owner Jimmy Haslam or CEO Joe Banner "for quite some time" and that he planned on conducting routine season-ending meetings and exit interviews with his players on Monday.

But the second-year coach also was also somewhat emotional and defiant in what very well could end up his final postgame press conference as Cleveland's head coach.

Shurmur pointed and said, "The future is bright for that group of guys," at one point. He later dismissively told reporters, "You need to call your league sources," when asked about his job status.

"I'm looking forward to this team next year if that's the case," Shurmur said. "If not, then what I'm going to do is help coach and help inspire a team to win games in some role. I have kids in college, I have mouths to feed — and this is my profession and this is what I choose to do. That's it. That is how simple it is in my mind."

Ben Roethlisberger threw three short touchdown

See BROWNS, 2B



Cincinnati Bengals defensive end Wallace Gilberry (95) celebrates after making a sack in the second half against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday in Cincinnati. Cincinnati won 23-17. (AP Photo)

Bengals beat Ravens in finale

Baltimore rested starters for playoffs

CINCINNATI (AP) — Andy Dalton, A.J. Green and the rest of the Bengals playmakers watched from the sideline as their backups pulled another victory out — with the defense leading the way, of course.

It's been their way during one breakthrough win after another.

Carlos Dunlap returned an interception 14 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter Sunday, sending

Cincinnati to a 23-17 victory over the Baltimore Ravens in a regular-season finale that had more of a preseason feel.

"It's definitely different," said left tackle Andrew Whitworth, who also sat out the second half.

"It's a situation where both teams have gotten in the playoffs and you really want to look forward to next

See BENGALS, 3B

Broncos earn top seed in AFC

Denver closes season with 11 straight victories

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

Thanks to Houston's late-season slump, Denver and New England will have byes when the AFC playoffs begin next week.

The Texans fell from first to third in the conference Sunday when they lost 28-16 at Indianapolis, which welcomed back coach Chuck Pagano after nearly three months of treatments for leukemia.

AFC West champion Denver won its 11th straight game, 38-3 over Kansas City to secure the top seed. New England blanked Miami 28-0 for the second spot. Minnesota edged Green

Bay 37-34 to grab the final NFC wild card, sinking the Packers to the third seed. Those teams will meet again next week at Lambeau Field.

The other NFC matchup will have Seattle (11-5), which beat St. Louis 20-13, at Washington who defeated Dallas 28-18 Sunday night for the NFC East crown.

Cincinnati (10-6) will be at Houston and Indianapolis (11-5) at Baltimore (10-6) in the AFC wild-card rounds.

Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns as Denver (13-3) routed the Chiefs. New England (12-4) got the second seed despite having the same record as Houston because it beat the Texans, who lost three of their final four games.

Adrian Peterson had 199 yards against the Packers, finishing with 2,097 — Dick-

erson's single-season rushing mark in 2,105. But it was rookie kicker Blair Walsh who won it with a 29-yard field goal as time expired.

"Ultimately we got the 'W,'" Peterson said.

Baltimore Pro Bowl safety Ed Reed is looking forward to a reunion with Pagano. He wishes it would come a little later in the postseason.

"Chuck's like a dad to me," Reed said.

"He means a lot to me. I would have much rather seen them in the AFC championship game than the first game."

But Reed will see him next week at Baltimore.

The Ravens had a chance to move up to the AFC's third seed with a win and a New England loss.

See NFL, 3B



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning calls signals at the line of scrimmage against the Kansas City Chiefs in the fourth quarter Sunday in Denver. (AP Photo)

Page

2

SNSPORTS

2CHOICES

Weekly sports poll

The Salem Quakers boys basketball team has started the season 7-0. Do you think they will win the NBC?



Previously asked

Will MLB players who used steroids eventually be elected into the Hall of Fame?

Yes

44%

No

56%

New poll weekly!

Vote and discuss in the sports section of

www.salemnews.net

WHAT2WATCH	
COLLEGE FOOTBALL	
Noon	
ESPN	— Music City Bowl, NC State vs. Vanderbilt, at Nashville, Tenn.
2 p.m.	
CBS	— Sun Bowl, Southern Cal vs. Georgia Tech, at El Paso, Texas
3:30 p.m.	
ESPN	— Liberty Bowl, Iowa St. vs. Tulsa, at Memphis, Tenn.
7:30 p.m.	
ESPN	— Chick-Fil-A Bowl, LSU vs. Clemson, at Atlanta
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL	
Noon	
ESPN2	— Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
2 p.m.	
ESPN2	— Michigan St. at Minnesota
4 p.m.	
ESPN2	— Indiana at Iowa
6 p.m.	
ESPN2	— Gonzaga at Oklahoma St.
8 p.m.	
ESPN2	— Harvard at Saint Mary's (Cal)
NBA BASKETBALL	
3 p.m.	
WGN	— Charlotte at Chicago

2DAYINSPORTS

Dec. 31

1974 — Catfish Hunter, baseball's first free agent, signs with the New York Yankees.

1982 — Jockey Pat Day edges Angel Cordero Jr. by two races to capture leading rider honors. Day rides Dana's Woof and Miltons Magic to victory during the evening program at Delta Downs for 399 wins for the year.

1988 — A blinding fog rolls in during the second quarter of the Chicago Bears' 20-12 NFC semifinal victory over the Philadelphia Eagles at Soldier Field in Chicago. The fog obscures the game from most of the 65,534 fans present and a national television audience that could watch only ground-level shots.

1989 — Jockey Kent Desormeaux sets the world record for most number of wins in a single season. His 598th win is aboard 2-year-old East Royalty in the Inner Harbor Stakes at Laurel Racecourse.

2003 — Englishman Rhys Lloyd kicks a 42-yard field goal with 23 seconds left to give Minnesota a 31-30 victory over Oregon in the Sun Bowl. The Golden Gophers finish the year 10-3, their first 10-win season since 1905.

2004 — Louisville snaps Boise State's 22-game winning streak in the highest-scoring Liberty Bowl ever. The Cardinals (11-1) hold off the Broncos 44-40 to match a school record for victories in a season.

2005 — Harness drivers Catello Manzi and Brian Spears each set single-season records. Manzi, 55, becomes the oldest harness driver to lead North America in victories (727), even without a win on the last day. Sears becomes the first driver to surpass \$15 million (\$15,085,991) in purse earnings.

2006 — San Diego coach Marty Schottenheimer wins his 200th regular-season game, joining Don Shula, George Halas, Tom Landry and Curly Lambeau in that exclusive club.

► NFL

Colts win in return of Pagano

COLTS 28, TEXANS 16
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts made Chuck Pagano a winner in his return to the sideline.



Andrew Luck threw for two touchdowns and Deji Karim swung the game with a 101-yard kickoff return in the third quarter, giving the Colts a 28-16 victory over Houston. It was Pagano's first game back as coach since starting treatment for leukemia Sept. 26.

Indianapolis (11-5) heads into the playoffs as the No. 5 seed and on a roll. The Colts will open the postseason next weekend against the Baltimore Ravens.

Slumping Houston (12-4) won't know its playoff seed until later Sunday. The Texans lost three of their last four games, and J.J. Watt failed to break Michael Strahan's single-season sacks record.

The game turned on two big plays: Karim's kick-off return, which wiped out a 16-14 Houston lead, and Luck's 70-yard TD pass to T.Y. Hilton.

BRONCOS 38, CHIEFS 3
DENVER (AP) — Peyton Manning threw for 304 yards and three touchdowns to lift Denver into the No. 1 seed for the AFC playoffs.

Manning finished the season with 4,659 yards, 41 short of his career high. He finished with 37 touchdown passes, and none will be more memorable than the last two — circus catches by Eric Decker and Demaryius Thomas that turned the game into a blowout.

Denver (13-3) won its 11th straight and leaped past Houston for the top seed after the Texans lost to Indianapolis 28-16 earlier in the day.

The Chiefs gained only 119 yards all day and finished their season 2-14. They will get the top pick in April's draft.

VIKINGS 37, PACKERS 34
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Adrian Peterson came within 9 yards of Eric Dickerson's rushing record, finishing with 199 yards and powering Minnesota into the playoffs.

The result forced a rematch with the Packers next weekend in a wild-card game — this time at Lambeau Field.

Peterson rushed for 36 yards on the last drive, plenty for rookie Blair Walsh's 29-yard field goal as time expired to put the Vikings (10-6) in the postseason. The Packers (11-5) fell to the NFC's No. 3 seed.

Aaron Rodgers completed 28 of 40 passes for 365 yards and four touchdowns and no turnovers,

BROWNS FROM 1B

passes, denying Cleveland its first sweep of the AFC North rival Steelers since 1988. Pittsburgh won for only the second time in its past seven games to avoid its first losing season since 2003.

Antonio Brown, Leonard Pope and Plaxico Burress scored for the Steelers (8-8), whose top-ranked defense forced four turnovers.

Pittsburgh will sit out the postseason for the first time since 2009, but the Browns extended their run of non-playoff seasons to 10.

The overhaul in Cleveland is already underway.

Haslam, who took over as owner in late summer, pushed out team president Mike Holmgren last month, and it appears Shurmur and Heckert could soon follow Holmgren out the door.

"It's safe to say there have

STEELERS FROM 1B

Pittsburgh, however, certainly does.

The Steelers were 6-3 and rolling in early November. Their victory on Sunday was only their second in their last seven games, a collapse that will send them home before New Year's Day, well short of the standard set by the team with seven Super Bowl titles.

"It's a disappointing season just as far as the talent we have," linebacker Larry Foote said. "We're 8-8, that's who we are. We've got to own it. A lot of letdowns, a lot of pluses too. We just didn't get it done."

Yet even with nothing on the line than the chance to avoid the first losing season in nearly a decade, the Steelers found a way to beat the Browns. Pittsburgh's top-ranked defense forced four turnovers and Roethlisberger hit Antonio Brown, Plaxico Burress and Leonard Pope for scores.

"I said earlier in the week that what we wanted to come out and finish the year with a

connecting with Jordy Nelson from 2 yards to tie the game with 2:54 remaining. But Christian Ponder threw for three scores, including one to Peterson.

49ERS 27, CARDINALS 13
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Michael Crabtree caught touchdown passes of 49 and 7 yards as the 49ers won a second straight NFC West title.

Colin Kaepernick threw for a career-best 276 yards and two TDs as the Niners (11-4-1) earned a No. 2 seed thanks to Green Bay's loss to Minnesota.

Frank Gore ran for a 2-yard touchdown early in the fourth quarter for his franchise-best 51st touchdown rushing.

Brian Hoyer went 19 of 34 for 225 yards and a late TD toss in his first career NFL start as Arizona's fourth quarterback. The Cardinals (5-11) lost for the 11th time in their last 12 games in what might have been Ken Whisenhunt's final game as coach.

SEAHAWKS 20, RAMS 13
SEATTLE (AP) — Russell Wilson tied Peyton Manning's record for most touchdown passes by a rookie with 26, and his 1-yard TD run with 1:39 left allowed Seattle to finish as the only unbeaten team at home.

Seattle (11-5) entered the day with hopes of still winning the NFC West and getting a home playoff game, but those dreams were dashed when San Francisco beat Arizona. Seattle will be the No. 5 seed and face the NFC East winner — Washington or Dallas — next weekend.

The Rams (7-8-1) sacked Wilson six times, but couldn't come up with their first winning record since 2003.

PATRIOTS 28, DOLPHINS 0
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and New England earned a playoff bye.

Stevan Ridley ran for two touchdowns as the Patriots used a ball-control offense and a defense that racked up a season-high seven sacks.

Now, seeded second in the AFC, they have an extra week to savor the win and prepare for their postseason opener.

The Patriots (12-4) led 21-0 at halftime on Brady's 9-yard touchdown pass to Wes Welker and Ridley's runs of 1 and 2 yards, capping drives lasting 14 and 13 plays. They ended the scoring on Brady's 23-yard scoring pass to Rob Gronkowski, who missed the previous five games after breaking his left forearm.

The Dolphins (7-9) finished with a losing record for the fourth straight season.

"You just wish you could go out with a win for him," linebacker D'Qwell Jackson said.

Many of the players also auditioning for jobs next year, the Browns played a lively, chippy game against their rivals that included plenty of pushing and shoving after the whistle and during play.

Shurmur, injecting a bit of risk-taking in a tenure filled with playing it safe, called a fake punt from the Cleveland 25 early in the third quarter that Ray Ventrone turned into a 35-yard gain, equaling the team's longest run of the season.

The Browns tied it at 10 a few plays later when Lewis hit Little for a 7-yard touchdown pass.

That about did it for Cleveland. The Steelers responded with a 12-play, 80-yard drive that ended with Roethlisberger hitting Brown for a 9-yard score that put the Steelers back in

for a brief stretch this season the Browns looked as if they had turned a corner. Cleveland put together a three-game winning streak spanning late November and early December that had some doing the complicated math necessary to put the Browns in the playoffs.

The optimism died just as quickly as it arose. Cleveland came back to earth in a 38-21 whipping at the hands of the Washington Redskins two weeks ago, followed by a blowout loss in Denver.

Given a chance to sweep their biggest rivals for the first time in 24 years, the Browns instead lost to the Steelers in the regular-season finale for the fourth time in the last five seasons.

"You just need to find a way to win, stats mean nothing," Browns linebacker Craig Robertson said. "You have two columns, wins and losses. That's all that matters."

That's all that matters to Haslam, who made a splash when he purchased the Browns earlier this season. The former Steelers minority owner wants to build Cleveland into a contender, which hasn't been consistently competitive in two decades.

Shurmur insists the building blocks are in place and

BUCCANEERS 22, FALCONS 17
ATLANTA (AP) — The Falcons couldn't follow through with their plan to gain momentum for the playoffs as Josh Freeman threw a touchdown pass to Mike Williams and Doug Martin ran for 141 yards.

The Falcons (13-3) had little to play for as they already have home-field advantage through the NFC playoffs. Coach Mike Smith said he wanted to "finish the regular season the right way," and he stayed with his starters through the game.

The danger to Smith's strategy was losing a top starter to an injury. Defensive end John Abraham, Atlanta's best pass rusher, left with an apparent left ankle injury in the fourth quarter. Cornerback Dunta Robinson suffered a head injury in the first quarter and did not return.

BEARS 26, LIONS 24
DETROIT (AP) — Jay Cutler threw for 257 yards and a touchdown and helped seal the game with a late scramble.

Chicago (10-6) needed a Minnesota loss to Green Bay to reach the postseason.

The Lions (4-12) lost their last eight games and turned the ball over four times in the finale. Calvin Johnson fell short in his attempt to become the first player with 2,000 yards receiving in a season.

Cutler's 19-yard run on third down helped Chicago run out the clock late in the fourth quarter.

GIANTS 42, EAGLES 7
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — There will be no Super Bowl repeat for the Giants. Not even a playoff berth despite Eli Manning's career-high five touchdown passes.

The Giants (9-7) playoff hopes ended minutes after routing the Eagles. Chicago's win over Detroit ended New York's long-shot playoff chances.

Eagles coach Andy Reid is out after 14 years at Philadelphia, three people familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The official announcement could come Monday.

The loss means that it will be seven straight seasons that the Super Bowl champion has failed to win a playoff game the following year.

Philadelphia closed the season 4-12.

BILLS 28, JETS 9
ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — C.J. Spiller scored on a 66-yard catch and run in helping underachieving Buffalo, while Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez had two more turnovers.

Safety Bryan Scott also returned an interception 20 yards for a touchdown for the Bills (6-10), who snapped a three-game skid. Both AFC East rivals had already been eliminated from playoff contention.

front.

"I think it was important to end our season the way we wanted to end it," Pittsburgh running back Jonathan Dwyer said.

The Browns failed to do so, though not for a lack of trying. Wide receiver Travis Benjamin fumbled while trying to fight for extra yardage in the fourth quarter. Pittsburgh's Cortez Allen picked up the ball and returned it to the Cleveland 27. Six plays later, Roethlisberger found Burress for a 12-yard TD.

Josh Gordon's fumble late in the second quarter led to Pope's touchdown.

"We had two fumbles by rookie receivers today that led to 14 points," Shurmur said. "Typically, rookies learn something new every time they play. I'm not saying that as an excuse, but we just didn't win enough games."

Cornerback Joe Haden said Shurmur's postgame remarks "didn't feel like a

The Steelers insisted they wanted to end a miserable December with some dignity but hardly appeared interested during most of the first half. Finishing in a rare meaningless finale, Pittsburgh sputtered for long stretches in front of the smallest crowd in Heinz Field's 12-year history. The Steelers needed more than a quarter to pick up a first down as Roethlisberger struggled to stay comfortable.

The Browns, trying to win one for their embattled coach, were a little livelier but no more effective.

Shurmur, injecting a bit of risk-taking in a tenure filled with playing it safe, called a fake punt from the Cleveland 25 early in the third quarter that Ray Ventrone turned into a 35-yard gain, equaling the team's longest run of the season.

The Browns tied it at 10 a few plays later when Lewis found Greg Little for a 7-yard touchdown pass.

That about did it for Cleveland. The Steelers responded with a 12-play, 80-yard drive that ended with Roethlisberger hitting Brown for a 9-yard score

tion.

The Bills finished last in the AFC East for a fifth straight season amid speculation about coach Chan Gailey's job security.

Sanchez may have started his final game for the Jets (6-10), who closed the season with three consecutive losses amid all sorts of turmoil.

TITANS 38, JAGUARS 20
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee became the first NFL team with two players scoring twice on returns in closing out the season with two wins in its final three games.

Darius Reynaud scored on two punt returns and rookie linebacker Zach Brown returned two interceptions for touchdowns.

The Titans finished 6-10 and await owner Bud Adams' decision on whether to keep coach Mike Munchak, who has two years left on his contract.

The Jaguars (2-14) wrapped up their worst season with their 12th loss in 13 games, and now owner Shad Khan has to decide on the futures of general manager Gene Smith and first-year coach Mike Mularkey.

PANTHERS 44, SAINTS 38
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Drew Brees made more NFL history, but so did the Saints' porous defense in a loss to Carolina.

DeAngelo Williams rushed for 210 yards, including touchdown runs of 54 and 12 yards, for Carolina (7-9), which closed the season with four straight wins. His 65-yard gain set up the first of three 1-yard scoring runs by Mike Tolbert.

Brees passed for 396 yards, giving him 5,177 this season. That makes him the first player to eclipse 5,000 yards three times. His four TD passes gave him 43 in 2012, and he's the first player with 40 TD passes in consecutive seasons.

The Saints (7-9) also gave up 530 yards, raising their season total to 7,042 to break the record of 6,793 allowed by the 1981 Baltimore Colts.

CHARGERS 24, RAIDERS 21
SAN DIEGO (AP) — Micheal Spurlock returned the opening kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown on wet, gloomy day in what's expected to be Norv Turner's final game as Chargers coach.

Turner and general manager A.J. Smith are expected to be fired because the Chargers (7-9) missed the playoffs for the third straight season. The Raiders finished 4-12.

Spurlock became the first Chargers player to have a kickoff and punt return for touchdowns in consecutive weeks. He returned a punt 63 yards for a touchdown a week earlier in a victory against the New York Jets.

goodbye." But by all accounts, they held a heart-felt tone.

"To me, he was trying to hold back tears," Jackson said. "He put everything into it, and we were trying to do something that hadn't been done since 1988. With everything else that's looming over his head, it's tough. He's in a tough spot. The players appreciate it. We'll run through a brick wall for him; it's just too bad we couldn't get a win for him."

NOTES: Polamalu's interception was his first of the season and 30th of his career ... Phil Dawson's 51-yard field goal in the second quarter tied for the second-longest in Heinz Field history ... Lewis was the 18th different quarterback to start for the Browns since 1999 ... Roethlisberger is 7-0 at home against the Browns ... Cribbs passed Dennis Northcutt as the team's all-time leader in punt return yardage.

that put the Steelers back in front.

The veteran wide receiver — brought in over a month ago to shore up a depleted unit — took a pair of bows after his first scoring catch in a year. It was a fitting gesture considering the Steelers soon exited stage right. A season that brimmed with hope after a win over the Giants on Nov. 4 collapsed in a five-week span that included four costly losses.

"I don't want to sweep it under the rug because we had some good times this year," Foote said. "But the expectation here is we've got to win."

NOTES: Polamalu's interception was his first of the season and 30th of his career ... Phil Dawson's 51-yard field goal in the second quarter tied for the second-longest in Heinz Field history ... Lewis was the 18th different quarterback to start for the Browns since 1999 ... Roethlisberger is 7-0 at home against the Browns ... Cleveland PR Joshua Cribbs passed Dennis Northcutt as the team's all-time leader in punt return yardage.

► COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ball, Taylor in Rose Bowl spotlight

Top tailbacks highlight Wisconsin-Stanford matchup

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Although Montee Ball and Stepfan Taylor have barely met, Taylor is pretty sure they would get along famously.

“We had a quick hello this week, but you can tell we’ve got a lot in common,” the Stanford running back said. “At least on the field.”

In an era of college football dominated by spread schemes and prolific quarterbacks, these two tailbacks personify an old-fashioned, smash-mouth approach to offense. Running behind similar massive offensive lines at Wisconsin and Stanford, both backs persevered through slow starts to their careers to earn prominent spots in the record books heading into their big finales in the 99th Rose Bowl.

“You can’t really have a better running back matchup in college football than this one,” Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez said.

Ball and Taylor expect to get to know each other while they prepare for the upcoming NFL draft, where they’re both likely to be high picks. They’ll first finish up their college careers against each other when the surprising Badgers (8-5) make their third straight Rose Bowl appearance Tuesday against the favored No. 8 Cardinal (11-2).

When Ball is asked about Taylor’s abilities, he realizes he might as well be describing himself.

“We’re both not blazing fast, but we both do a good job playing to our strengths,” Ball said. “We run behind our pads, run between the tackles and always stay physical. We’ve got a lot of similarities, so it’s good to see him have success. Just hopefully not too much success in the game.”

The Rose Bowl is a culmination of two resilient tenures at a notoriously fickle position. Both backs are playing in their third straight BCS bowls: Ball was outstanding in both of the Badgers’ previous trips to the Rose Bowl, while Taylor had big games in Orange and Fiesta bowls over the past two years.

Ball, who won the Doak Walker Award as the nation’s top running back this season, has scored 82 touchdowns — more than any-



Wisconsin running back Montee Ball talks to reporters during the Rose Bowl media day in Los Angeles. Wisconsin will face Stanford in the Rose Bowl New Year's Day in Pasadena, Calif. (AP Photo)

body in FBS history. Taylor is merely the leading rusher in Stanford history — and one score shy of becoming the school’s career touchdowns leader — as an incredibly durable performer who almost never leaves the field when the Cardinal have the ball. Yet neither Ball nor Taylor started his college career as the main man, instead winning their starting jobs through persistence and hard work. Taylor was a backup to Toby Gerhart as a freshman, getting just 56 carries. He was overshadowed for most of his first three seasons on The Farm with Heisman contenders Gerhart and Andrew Luck in the same backfield before getting the spotlight this year — and even then, he was overshadowed on the West Coast by fellow Pac-12 ball-carriers Kenjon Barner at Oregon, Ka’Deem Carey at Arizona and Johnathan Franklin at UCLA. Yet Taylor broke Darrin Nelson’s Stanford career rushing record in the Pac-12 title game, getting 78 more yards to give him 4,212 in his career. With a touchdown against Wisconsin, he’ll break his career tie with

Gerhart at 44 TDs. “I don’t worry about people paying attention to me as long as we’re winning games, because that’s all you can control,” Taylor said. Ball played behind John Clay as a freshman and in a three-back combo with Clay and James White as a sophomore. Ball was frequently the third option in that troika in 2010, particularly when he didn’t even play in a win over Ohio State, a setback that left him contemplating a transfer or moving to linebacker. “I learned a lot about distractions during my career, and that helps you when you get in a situation like the Rose Bowl where you need focus,” Ball said. Ball has rushed for 1,730 yards and 21 touchdowns in the final season of his decorated career at Wisconsin. With three touchdowns in the Big Ten title game, Ball broke the FBS career record for rushing TDs with 76 while topping 5,000 yards for his career. He was a Heisman Trophy finalist last season after scoring 39 touchdowns, and he rushed for 164 yards in Wisconsin’s loss to Oregon in last season’s Rose Bowl.

Ball won’t catch Wisconsin career rushing leader Ron Dayne, the top ball-carrier in FBS history with 6,397 yards, but he’s done just about everything else possible in Madison. When David Shaw was asked about his single biggest concern in the Rose Bowl, the Stanford coach was blunt: “He wears No. 28 for the other team.” That would be Ball, of course. The Cardinal have replicated Ball in practice with Stanford backup running back Barry Sanders — yes, the son of that other Barry Sanders, whose single-season record of 39 touchdowns for Oklahoma State was tied by Ball last season. “His career reminds me so much of Stepfan Taylor,” Shaw added. “He’s got great vision, great balance. He waits for the blocks and to happen, and then he explodes. You never see him get in (bad) body position. He doesn’t turn the ball over. He doesn’t sacrifice the good play to try to make the big play. He makes the plays he’s supposed to make, and then makes more. He’s just one of those complete running backs that we have a lot of respect for.”

NFL FROM 1B

But Baltimore lost at Cincinnati as both teams played backups for much of the game. Pagano coached the Ravens’ secondary for three seasons and was promoted to coordinator last year. Players and coaches in Baltimore have kept in touch, offering encouragement as he fought through the cancer treatments.

“Going back to Baltimore, obviously there’s some familiarity there,” Pagano said. “We had four great years there as a family. It’s a top-notch organization, you know, really good football club. It’s a great challenge and they have a great team and they have great players all over the place.” The Colts were 2-14 last season and chose quarterback Andrew Luck with the top selection in the draft. Luck and offensive coordinator Bruce Arians, who

stepped in as interim coach with Pagano sidelined, led the turnaround. Next week, Pagano goes up against former boss John Harbaugh. “I love his family, and he’s one of my closest personal friends in coaching,” Harbaugh said. “What he’s been through is phenomenal, but we’re all competitors so that gets set aside.” The defending Super Bowl champion Giants are out of contention. When Chicago

beat Detroit 26-24, the Giants (9-7) were eliminated, even though they routed Philadelphia 42-7. “It hurts,” said Eli Manning. “Each year you want to make the playoffs to give yourself an opportunity to win a championship; 9-7 last year was good enough. It wasn’t good enough this year and we knew it wouldn’t be.” Minnesota’s win eliminated Chicago, which the Vikings swept this season.

BENGALS FROM 1B

week having people fresh and ready and not have any injuries.” The Ravens (10-6) had already clinched their second straight AFC North title and decided to use the final game to get healthier. They had several stars inactive and pulled quarterback Joe Flacco and running back Ray Rice after only two series. They’ll host Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts next weekend, reuniting them with former defensive coordinator Chuck Pagano. The Colts head coach has returned from three rounds of chemotherapy. “Chuck’s like a dad to me,” Ravens safety Ed Reed said. “He means a lot to me. I would have much rather seen them in the AFC championship game than the first game.” The Bengals (10-6) are locked into the sixth seed as the final wild-card team. They’ll open next weekend at Houston, where they lost 31-10 in the first round of the playoffs last season. “I think it will be good,” said Dalton, who grew up in suburban Houston. “We

played there last year and know the atmosphere and what it’s going to be like. The experience last year will definitely help us.” With hardly anything at stake, the Bengals went into preseason mode on a 26-degree afternoon with a wind chill of 16. They got their seventh win in the last eight games. “I’m glad that’s over,” coach Marvin Lewis said. “That’s a difficult situation to be in. I thought our guys handled it about as well as you can handle it.” Josh Brown kicked three field goals in the second half. Dunlap tipped one of Tyrod Taylor’s passes to himself and returned it for a clinching touchdown with 6:06 left, jumping into the stands and sitting there for several seconds while fans smacked his back. “I wanted it to be a highlight to remember,” Dunlap said. The Bengals headed into the playoffs for the second straight season after beating rivals Pittsburgh and Baltimore in back-to-back weeks — a breakthrough for a franchise that had been 0-6 against those top rivals the past two seasons. The defense has led the way, scoring more touch-

downs than the offense over the past two weeks. Cornerback Leon Hall returned an interception for the only touchdown against Pittsburgh, and Dunlap clinched the win on Sunday with his return. “I think we’ve found ways to win games, and that’s the thing we needed to learn as a young team,” Whitworth said. “This young team has learned how to win games.” The Bengals wanted to get their running game tuned up for the playoffs, but BenJarvus Green-Ellis had a hamstring tighten up during pre-game warm-ups and was held out of the game. Lewis didn’t know how it would affect him in the playoffs. The Ravens sat some of their banged-up playmakers and started pulling others from the game after only two series. Receiver Anquan Boldin, defensive tackle Haloti Ngata and linebacker Terrell Suggs were inactive, giving them a week to rest. The Bengals went with a conservative approach. Dalton didn’t even throw toward Green until the final drive of the first half, keeping the Pro Bowl receiver out of harm’s way. Bruce Gradkowski took over in the second half for Dalton, who was

10 of 15 for 78 yards with a pair of sacks. Brown kicked field goals of 47, 32 and 38 yards in the second half. Brown will be the Bengals’ kicker in the playoffs with Mike Nugent sidelined by a calf injury. Brown is 11 for 12 on field goal tries since he signed as a free agent, the only miss on a 56-yard attempt in Pittsburgh. Taylor, who had thrown only four passes all season, replaced Flacco and led a pair of touchdown drives by running away from defenders. Anthony Allen ran 2 yards for a touchdown, and Taylor scored on a 1-yard run. **Notes:** The crowd of 61,565 gave Cincinnati six sellouts in eight home games. The Bengals sold out only two games last season on their way to the playoffs. ... Baltimore’s Justin Tucker missed a 45-yard field goal try and made one from 49 yards, leaving him 30 of 33 for the season. His 90.9 percent success rate set an NFL record for a rookie. ... The Bengals had four sacks, giving them a franchise-record 51 for the season. ... S Chris Crocker hurt his right thigh while trying to make a tackle in the first quarter and didn’t return. He said the injury wasn’t serious.

AROUND THE HORN



Columbiana HOF banquet set

COLUMBIANA — The 17th Annual Columbiana High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction banquet will be held Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. at Columbiana High School. Doors open at 5 p.m. and tickets for the banquet are available at the Columbiana High School athletic office or by calling Larry Baughman at 330-482-3422. Cost is \$20 per ricket, \$10 for ages six to 10. Reservations must be made by Feb. 1. This year’s honorees include Bob Kimpel, class of 1987; Joe McAndrew, class of 1998; Lyn South Sherwood, class of 1977; Jason Stefanick, class of 1998, and Justin Stefanick, class of 1998. Inductees will also be introduced between the varsity girls and varsity boys games between CHS and Leetonia, Friday, Feb. 8.

Spanish golfer Miguel Angel Jimenez breaks leg

MADRID (AP) — Spanish golfer Miguel Angel Jimenez has broken his right shinbone and will be sidelined for up to five months. Jimenez said in a statement Sunday that he had surgery on his leg after injuring it while skiing Saturday. Jimenez says “I was playing well, but you have to take life as it comes.” Jimenez was a vice captain on Europe’s Ryder Cup-winning team in September. In November, the 48-year-old Jimenez became the oldest European Tour winner by capturing his third Hong Kong Open title. He has 19 career European Tour titles.

Vikings RB Peterson finishes 9 yards shy of record

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Adrian Peterson ran right past everyone this season. Past all those running backs before him who couldn’t make it to 2,000 yards in a season. Past every doubter who dared to think he wouldn’t make it back from a devastating knee injury. Past everyone except Eric Dickerson. Peterson became the seventh player to rush for 2,000 yards in a season, plowing through the Green Bay Packers for a 20-yard gain that put him over the top in the third quarter Sunday. He finished with 199 yards and a touchdown in the 37-34 victory, leaving him nine yards shy of breaking Dickerson’s single-season record. “Ultimately we got the ‘W,’” Peterson said after carrying the ball a career-high 34 times. “We said during the week, if it happens, it happens. Don’t focus on it.” Peterson needed 208 yards when the day began to break Dickerson’s record of 2,105 yards set in 1984. His 26-yard run late in the fourth quarter set up Blair Walsh’s winning field goal, a kick that clinched a playoff berth for the Vikings. He’ll have to settle for the second-best total — 2,097 yards — and a trip to Lambeau Field for a playoff rematch next Saturday night. “I know Eric Dickerson is feeling so good right now,” Peterson said with a chuckle, referencing public comments from Dickerson a few weeks back saying he hoped Peterson didn’t break his record. “But God willing, I’ll get it next year.” Even without the record, his remarkable comeback season now has a magic number to punctuate it. Peterson came in 102 yards shy of joining O.J. Simpson, Dickerson, Barry Sanders, Terrell Davis, Jamal Lewis and Chris Johnson in the 2,000-yard club. Peterson is the only one to do it after reconstructive knee surgery, and he did it on the one-year anniversary of his knee surgery. “He is without question the best running back in our game and truly, in my mind, the MVP of our league,” Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said. “We don’t win this game without Adrian Peterson.”

AP sources: Reid won’t be back as Eagles’ coach

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Andy Reid is out after 14 years coaching the Philadelphia Eagles, three people familiar with the decision told The Associated Press following Sunday’s 42-7 season-ending loss to the New York Giants. Reid is scheduled to meet with owner Jeffrey Lurie on Monday to discuss his future and an official announcement will come afterward, according to one person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because a final agreement hasn’t been reached. That person says there’s a chance Reid might remain with the team in some capacity. Reid is due to make \$6 million in 2013 in the final year of his contract. He said he wants to coach next year, but it’s possible Lurie could persuade him to take a season off and perhaps help out in the front office in an “advisory” role. Eagles spokesman Derek Boyko denied several reports that Lurie has already fired Reid, saying it’s “absolutely, 100 percent” untrue. The Eagles (4-12) finished their worst season under Reid by losing 11 of their last 12 games. They missed the playoffs two straight years for the first time under Reid. After the ugly loss to the Giants (9-7), Reid sounded like a man who knew he was going to lose his job. “We weren’t very good,” Reid said. “That’s my responsibility and I take complete blame for it.” Asked if he wants to return in 2013, Reid said: “I’m all in.” Lurie said after the Eagles went 8-8 in 2011 that he considered firing Reid. He gave him another chance, but said before this season that 8-8 would be “unacceptable.”

Michigan State ends season with another close one

AP) — Michigan State finished one game over .500 after winning its final game by one point. It was an appropriate ending to a season full of close victories and excruciating defeats. The Spartans played nine games decided by four points or fewer, including their first seven in Big Ten play. They ended on a high note Saturday night with a 17-16 win over TCU in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, but the offseason will bring plenty of questions for a team that just a few months ago was hoping to make a run at a conference title. “We stayed composed all the way through to the end,” coach Mark Dantonio said. “We won against Wisconsin very close. We won against Boise (State) very close. So our guys have won. It’s just that sometimes when you lose, it sort of gets magnified for all of us.” After coming within an eyelash of the Rose Bowl the previous two seasons, Michigan State needed to replace quarterback Kirk Cousins in 2012. Andrew Maxwell became the starter, but in the bowl he ended up splitting time with Connor Cook. So that may be the first talking point after a 7-6 season. Maxwell has another year of eligibility, but it was Cook, a redshirt freshman, who directed the drive that led to the winning field goal Saturday. “I don’t want to slight anybody, say, ‘This guy is the new quarterback.’ There’s a lot of colleges across the country that play two quarterbacks or play guys situationally,” Dantonio said. “We just felt like we wanted to play a redshirt freshman and get him some reps in a bowl game. He had enough time to prepare and we wanted to see what he could do. He did well so we used him the second half, too.” With the passing game in flux, the Spartans relied heavily on running back Le’Veon Bell. He ended up with 1,793 yards on a whopping 382 carries. Now, Michigan State waits for Bell to announce whether he’ll turn pro or come back for his senior year.

► **PREP SCHEDULE**

High School Hoops Schedule	
Jan. 2	
Minerva at Tusky Valley (Girls)	
Jan. 3	
United at West Branch (Girls)	
Poland Seminary at Canfield (Girls)	
Sebring at Heartland Christian (Girls)	
Youngstown Christian at Leetonia (Girls)	
Lisbon at Southern Local (Girls)	
South Range at Lowellville (Girls)	
Columbiana at East Palestine (Girls)	
Jan. 4	
Canton South at Salem (Boys)	
Minerva at West Branch (Boys)	
Jackson Milton at Sebring (Boys)	
Heartland Christian at United (Boys)	
Youngstown Christian at Leetonia (Boys)	
Columbiana at Crestview (Boys)	
South Range at Western Reserve (Boys)	

Jan. 5	
United at Beaver Local (Girls)	
Canfield at Salem (Boys)	
Minerva at West Branch (Girls)	
Carrollton at Salem (Girls)	
Canfield at Boardman (Girls)	
Lisbon at Heritage Christian (Girls)	
Crestview at Leetonia (Boys)	
Heritage Christian at Lisbon (Boys)	

Jan. 7	
Jackson Milton at United (Girls)	
Sebring at Leetonia (Girls)	
Springfield at Lisbon (Girls)	
South Range at Crestview (Girls)	
McDonald at Columbiana (Girls)	
Wellsville at Western Reserve (Girls)	

Jan. 8	
Salem at Alliance (Boys)	
West Branch at Louisville (Boys)	
Sebring at Leetonia (Boys)	
Jackson Milton at United (Boys)	
South Range at Crestview (Boys)	
Springfield at Lisbon (Boys)	
McDonald at Columbiana (Boys)	
Wellsville at Western Reserve (Boys)	

Jan. 9	
Carrollton at Minerva (Girls)	
Salem at Marlinton (Girls)	
West Branch at Alliance (Girls)	

Jan. 10	
United at Mineral Ridge (Girls)	
Beaver Local at Canfield (Girls)	
Sebring at Southern Local (Girls)	
Columbiana at Leetonia (Girls)	
Lisbon at Crestview (Girls)	
East Palestine at South Range (Girls)	
Western Reserve at Lowellville (Girls)	

Jan. 11	
Louisville at Salem (Boys)	
Marlinton at Western Reserve (Boys)	
Sebring at Southern Local (Boys)	
United at Mineral Ridge (Boys)	
Columbiana at Leetonia (Boys)	
Lisbon at Crestview (Boys)	
East Palestine at South Range (Girls)	

Jan. 12	
Lowellville at United (Girls)	
Minerva at Louisville (Girls)	
Alliance at Salem (Girls)	
West Branch at Canton South (Girls)	
Youngstown East at Canfield (Girls)	

Jan. 14	
Lisbon at United (Girls)	
Minerva at East Canton (Girls)	
Beaver Local at Salem (Girls)	
Sebring at Wellsville (Girls)	
Leetonia at Lowellville (Girls)	
Jackson Milton at South Range (Girls)	
Western Reserve at Columbiana (Girls)	

Jan. 15	
Liberty at Salem (Boys)	
West Branch at East Liverpool (Boys)	
Sebring at Wellsville (Boys)	
Lisbon at United (Boys)	
Leetonia at Lowellville (Boys)	
Mineral Ridge at Crestview (Boys)	
Jackson Milton at South Range (Boys)	
Western Reserve at Columbiana (Boys)	

Jan. 16	
Minerva at New Philadelphia (Girls)	
West Branch at East Liverpool (Girls)	

► **NFL GLANCE**

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
East					South				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-New England	12	4	0	.750	557	331			
Miami	7	9	0	.438	288	317			
N.Y. Jets	6	10	0	.375	281	375			
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	344	435			
North					West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-Houston	12	4	0	.750	416	331			
x-Indianapolis	11	5	0	.688	357	387			
Tennessee	6	10	0	.375	330	471			
Jacksonville	2	14	0	.125	255	444			
North					West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-Baltimore	10	6	0	.625	398	344			
x-Cincinnati	10	6	0	.625	391	320			
Pittsburgh	8	8	0	.500	336	314			
Cleveland	5	11	0	.313	302	368			
West					North				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-Denver	13	3	0	.813	481	289			
San Diego	7	9	0	.438	350	350			
Oakland	4	12	0	.250	290	443			
Kansas City	2	14	0	.125	211	425			

NATIONAL CONFERENCE									
East					South				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-Washington	9	6	0	.600	408	370			
N.Y. Giants	9	7	0	.563	429	344			
Dallas	8	8	0	.500	358	372			
Philadelphia	4	12	0	.250	280	444			
South					West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-Atlanta	13	3	0	.813	419	299			
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	357	363			
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	461	454			
Tampa Bay	7	9	0	.438	389	394			
North					West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-Green Bay	11	5	0	.688	433	336			
x-Minnesota	10	6	0	.625	379	348			
Chicago	10	6	0	.625	375	277			
Detroit	4	12	0	.250	372	437			
West					North				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-San Francisco	11	4	1	.719	397	273			
x-Seattle	11	5	0	.688	412	245			
St. Louis	7	8	1	.469	299	348			
Arizona	5	11	0	.313	250	357			

x-clinched playoff spot	
y-clinched division	
Sunday's Games	
Tennessee 38, Jacksonville 20	
Carolina 44, New Orleans 38	
Buffalo 28, N.Y. Jets 9	
Cincinnati 23, Baltimore 17	
Pittsburgh 24, Cleveland 10	
Indianapolis 28, Houston 16	
N.Y. Giants 42, Philadelphia 7	
Chicago 26, Detroit 24	
Tampa Bay 22, Atlanta 17	
San Diego 24, Oakland 21	
San Francisco 27, Arizona 13	
Seattle 20, St. Louis 13	
Denver 38, Kansas City 3	
Minnesota 37, Green Bay 34	
New England 28, Miami 0	
Washington 28, Dallas 18	

Playoff Glance	
Wild-card Playoffs	
Saturday, Jan. 5	
Cincinnati at Houston, 4:30 p.m. (NBC)	
Minnesota at Green Bay, 8 p.m. (NBC)	
Sunday, Jan. 6	
Indianapolis at Baltimore, 1 p.m. (CBS)	
Seattle at Washington winner, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)	

Divisional Playoffs	
Saturday, Jan. 12	
Baltimore, Indianapolis or Cincinnati at Denver, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)	
Washington, Seattle or Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m. (FOX)	
Sunday, Jan. 13	
Washington, Seattle or Minnesota at Atlanta, 1 p.m. (FOX)	
Baltimore, Indianapolis or Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)	
Conference Championships	
Sunday, Jan. 20	
AFC, TBA (CBS)	
NFC, TBA (FOX)	

Pro Bowl	
Sunday, Jan. 27	
At Honolulu	
AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (NBC)	
Super Bowl	
Sunday, Feb. 3	
At New Orleans	
AFC champion vs. NFC champion, 6 p.m. (CBS)	

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► **BROWNS-STEELERS**

Cleveland	0	3	7	0—10
Pittsburgh	0	10	7	7—24
Second Quarter				
Pit_FG Suisham 41, 7:53.				
Cle_FG Dawson 51, 3:48.				
Pit_Pope 1 pass from Roethlisberger (Suisham kick), 4:7.				
Third Quarter				
Cle_Little 7 pass from Lewis (Dawson kick), 11:03.				
Pit_A.Brown 9 pass from Roethlisberger (Suisham kick), 4:39.				
Fourth Quarter				
Pit_Burress 12 pass from Roethlisberger (Suisham kick), 3:20.				
A_51,831.				
	Cle	Pit		
First downs	18	17		
Total Net Yards	320	212		
Rushes-yards	26-138	28-91		
Passing	182	121		
Punt Returns	1-7	1-10		
Kickoff Returns	3-71	2-46		
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-1		
Comp-Att-Int	22-32-1	15-23-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-22	2-13		
Punts	3-38.3	6-41.8		
Fumbles-Lost	3-3	0-0		
Penalties-Yards	9-79	3-58		
Time of Possession	29:39	30:21		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING_ Cleveland, B.Jackson 8-54, Hardesty 14-37, Ventrone 1-35, Ogbonnaya 2-9, Lewis 1-3. Pittsburgh, Dwyer 11-52, Redman 6-26, Mendenhall 6-19, Rainey 1-2, Roethlisberger 2-(minus 2), A.Brown 2-(minus 6). PASSING_ Cleveland, Lewis 22-32-1-204. Pittsburgh, Roethlisberger 15-23-0-134. RECEIVING_ Cleveland, Watson 7-64, Benjamin 4-43, Gordon 4-39, Little 3-8, Ogbonnaya 2-3, Cribbs 1-9, Cooper 1-8. Pittsburgh, Sanders 2-28, Burress 2-24, A.Brown 2-22, Cotochery 2-21, W.Johnson 2-17, Mendenhall 2-1, Redman 1-11, Dwyer 1-9, Pope 1-1. MISSED FIELD GOALS_ Cleveland, Dawson 39 (WR).

► **NHL GLANCE**

A daily look at the NHL lockout
The Associated Press
NHL LOCKOUT AT A GLANCE
DATE: Sunday, Dec. 30.
DAY: 106.
LAST NEGOTIATIONS: In-person talks Dec. 13 in New Jersey. Bargaining conference call Dec. 14.
NEXT NEGOTIATIONS: Talks expected Monday in New York.
GAMES LOST: 625 (all games through Jan. 14, including New Year's Day Winter Classic, and All-Star weekend).
BACK TO THE TABLE: After two days of informational talks wrapped up Sunday, the players' association held internal discussions and announced in the late afternoon that negotiations with the NHL were planned for Monday. Meetings were conducted in person and via conference call between the two staffs on Sunday. The union could be prepping a counteroffer to the one it received from the NHL on Thursday. The NHL would like to have a deal in place by Jan. 11 and begin a 48-game season no later than Jan. 19.
WHAT WE MISSED: The only game scheduled for Sunday was a matchup between the Edmonton Oilers and the Blackhawks in Chicago.
ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR: The Buffalo Sabres lost defenseman Christian Ehrhoff, who was injured in a fight with Washington's Troy Brouwer in a 3-1 loss to the Capitals. The fight occurred in the first period, and Sabres coach Lindy Ruff said Ehrhoff was going to "miss some time ... probably weeks." Ehrhoff ended up missing 11 games because of a rib injury. Buffalo signed the former Vancouver defenseman to a 10-year, \$40 million contract in July 2011.

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► **CBB TOP 25**

This Week's Top 25 Fared	
The Associated Press	
1. Duke (12-0) beat Santa Clara 80-77.	
2. Michigan (13-0) beat Central Michigan 88-73.	
3. Arizona (12-0) beat No. 17 San Diego State 68-67.	
4. Louisville (12-1) beat Kentucky 80-77.	
5. Indiana (12-1) beat Jacksonville 93-59.	
6. Kansas (11-1) beat American U. 89-57.	
7. Missouri (10-2) lost to UCLA 97-94, OT.	
8. Cincinnati (12-1) lost to New Mexico 55-54.	
9. Syracuse (11-1) beat Alcorn State 57-36.	
10. Ohio State (10-2) beat Chicago State 87-44.	
11. Minnesota (12-1) did not play.	
12. Illinois (13-1) beat Auburn 81-79.	
13. Gonzaga (12-1) beat Baylor 94-87.	
14. Florida (9-2) beat Air Force 78-61.	
15. Georgetown (10-1) did not play.	
16. Creighton (12-1) beat Evansville 87-70.	
17. San Diego State (11-2) lost to No. 3 Arizona 68-67.	
18. Butler (10-2) beat Vanderbilt 68-49.	
19. Michigan State (11-2) did not play.	
20. UNLV (11-2) lost to North Carolina 79-73.	
21. Notre Dame (12-1) did not play.	
22. Oklahoma State (10-1) did not play.	
23. N.C. State (10-2) beat Western Michigan 84-68.	
24. Pittsburgh (12-1) did not play.	
25. Kansas State (10-2) beat UMKC 52-44.	

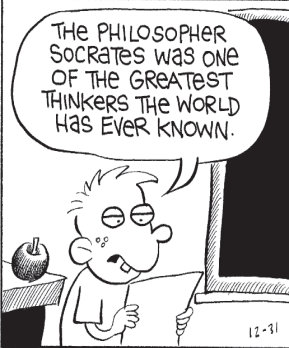
► **WOM**

FUNKY WINKERBEAN



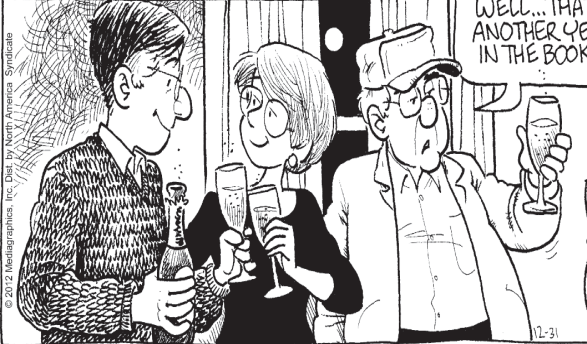
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SOUP TO NUTS



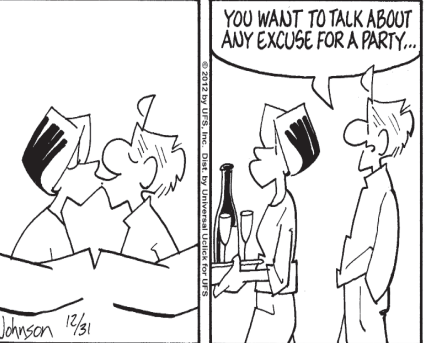
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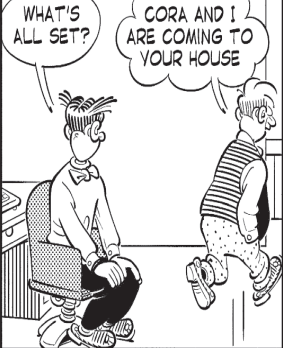
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ARLO AND JANIS



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BLONDIE



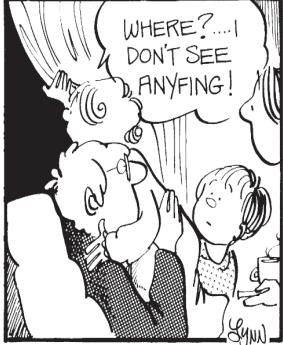
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BORN LOSER



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FOR BETTER OR WORSE



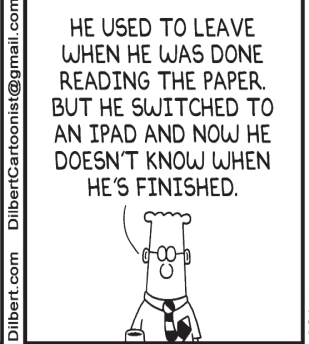
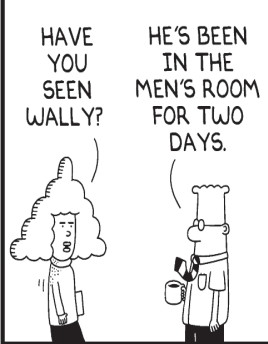
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FRANK AND EARNEST



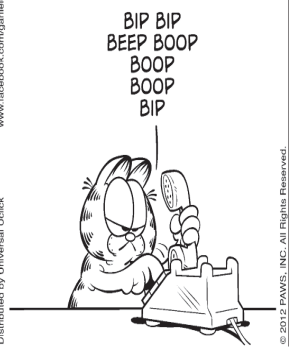
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DILBERT



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GARFIELD

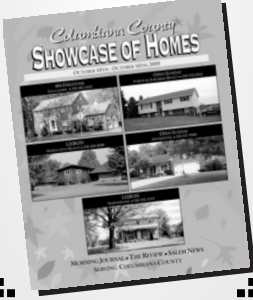


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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOHYB
RULBB
FEMLUF
DENTRY

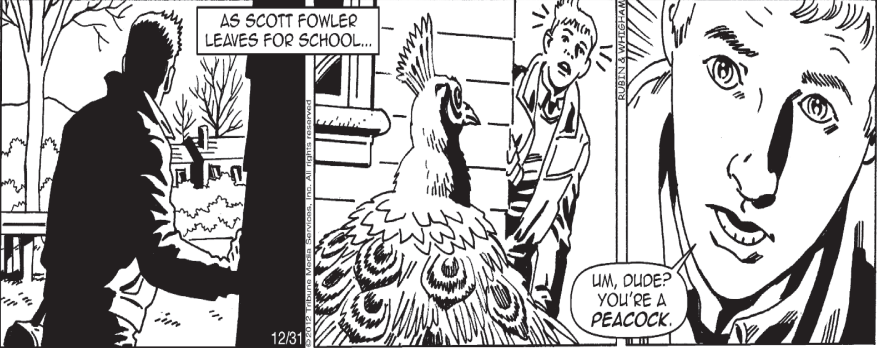
Answer here: _____

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumbles: SIGHT DERBY SCULPT MEMORY

Answer: When they asked the owner of the inn if they could check in early, he said — BE MY GUEST

GIL THORPE



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HI AND LOIS



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BABYBLUES



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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Timely question
5 Poker pile
8 Church area
12 Overhaul
13 Mont. neighbor
14 Disturb
15 Burglar
16 Spotted horses
18 Longitude unit
20 Wouldn't hurt —
21 Suppositions
22 "Harper Valley —"
23 Make better
26 Golf club
29 Wobbles, as a rocket
30 Silly
31 Glasgow turnaround
33 WSW opposite
34 Oahu welcomes
35 Workout locales
36 Checked for fractures (hyph.)

38 Capital of Tibet
39 IV units
40 Charge
41 Goof-off
44 Grilled steak
47 Fitting
49 Swiss cubist
51 Name in blue jeans
52 Give alms
53 — no idea!
54 Mr. Baldwin
55 Ave. crossers
56 Mexican lad

DOWN

1 Sardonic
2 Pay attention
3 Boundary
4 Heads
5 Gas mains
6 Comic strip dog
7 — kwon do
8 Former Palestinian leader
9 Gather opinions
10 Agree with
11 Adamson's pet

37 Acid in vinegar
38 Meadow
40 Nourishes
41 Cuba, to Castro
42 One-on-one battle
43 Not pre-recorded
44 Mask feature
45 Post-kindergarten
46 Campus figure
48 Undergrad degrees
50 Tokyo, to shoguns

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ULNA	ASTA	PIP
HAIR	LION	TOE
OPEC	ESTIMATE	
HECTIC	MAHAL	
LEIS	SAL	
CLACK	TSPS	
MAT	ERIE	SARA
EDAM	OTIS	COM
LENA	MENSA	
CIA	TUBA	
AREAS	ESPRIT	
COLOSSAL	AUDI	
DAH	URLS	ITEM
CRI	EASE	REDS

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16		17			
	18			19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	
29					30			31	32	
33					34			35		
	36		37				38			
			39				40			
41	42	43			44			45	46	
47					48			49		50
51					52			53		
54					55			56		

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HOROSCOPE

By HOLIDAY MATHIS
12/31/12
Goodbye, 2012

The Leo moon is the perfect lighting scheme for an unforgettable New Year's Eve. She highlights creativity and fun. She brings focus to the most entertaining aspects of the night and unites the crowd in cheer and song. This is, after all, the year that many believed would never come. Be safe, well and happy as you wave goodbye and hello.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you feel restricted and can pin it on a certain reason or person, consider yourself lucky. Most people don't realize how they are being limited. There is no way to break out of a prison you don't even know you're in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Beware of the armchair advisers. The truth is, they don't know the truth. If they did, they'd be in the field, not telling you what to do from a comfortable sitting position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be a master negotiator, mediator and general peacekeeper. You'll make a commitment to working things through and working them out. It's not over until everyone is happy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you were an outlet, and the people around you were lamps, you'd only let the ones that work plug into your energy. Otherwise, what's the point? Save your energy for the people who are sure to light up your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Like George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life," you sometimes undervalue your contribution to others. You have a baseline of generosity, kindness and good character that doesn't go unnoticed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You could win a game in spite of your carefree and noncompetitive attitude. There's something to be said about not being overly invested in the outcome.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're the only one who can steer the ship today, because staying on course has everything to do with what feels right and what feels wrong. As long as you go with your feelings, you'll stay on course.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you got what you wanted, would it rob someone else of what they wanted? Probably not. In fact, it would free up the thing you're holding onto but *don't* want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's nothing like the cusp of a new year to remind you that there's hope. There's always hope. In the midst of the celebration, friends remind you what you're all about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Mercury's recent arrival in your part of the sky will inspire you to strike up a conversation with people you normally wouldn't think you'd have much in common with. You'll be delighted by the results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll play a game that has nothing to do with money or material reward. You'll find yourself invested on some basic level to do all that's in your power to win.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your life force is strong, and people can feel the vitality, excitement and joy radiating from you. They don't even have to be in the same room to know that you're a powerhouse today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31). You need a clear headspace to pursue your dreams. This year, you'll rearrange your life, responsibilities and schedule to make that happen. January brings a fortuitous meeting and the start of a beautiful relationship. February is your chance to shine in a competitive environment. Your finances improve in June. Pisces and Taurus people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 10, 29, 44 and 14.

SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOTT? Yes, some should. Also, there are habits, sayings, tendencies and more that would best be heaped on the rubbish pile of 2012. What would you do well to leave behind? **ARIES** and **TAURUS:** Arguing politics with family. The election year is past, and there's no sense in ruining relationships by sharing too many opinions. **GEMINI** and **AQUARIUS:** The word "should" does have its place, but often it's used to negate reality and judge yourself and others by random standards that may not really apply. Life is just better without a lot of "shoulds." **CANCER** **SCORPIO** and **PISCES:** Water signs thrive when they favor their gut feelings. Inner guidance can be illogical, but for these highly intuitive signs, it would be foolish to ignore it. Use your psychic ability to help yourself. **LEO, VIRGO** and **CAPRICORN:** You're not doing anyone a favor by neglecting your true talents while you tend to business that a highly responsible monkey could do. Make 2013 your year to delegate! **LIBRA** and **SAGITTARIUS:** Your taste is amazing, but sometimes you choose the generic route to satisfy the expectations of others. In the new year, instead of meeting expectations, challenge them. You'll have more fun, and others will love it!

Flour bag frustration



Heloise

Dear Readers: Here is this week's SOUND OFF, about flour bags:

"Why can't flour manufacturers create a bag or other container that is easy to open AND close again?"

"Many flour canisters aren't large enough to hold 5 pounds of flour, so the partially full bag must be reclosed and stored. It is so frustrating to grapple with the glued seam to get it unsealed, then try to fold the top part of the bag back down and secure it. Opening was much easier when the top seam was sewn and the string could simply be pulled to open the bag neatly. — **Peggy in Nebraska**"

I'm in agreement! Sugar bags are just as frustrating! — **Heloise**

FAST FACTS

Dear Readers: Other uses for marbles:

- Put in the bottom of a flower vase for color.
- Use in a jar as a paperweight or doorstop.
- Mix in with aquarium rocks.
- Use at the bottom of a plant pot to hold soil in.
- Use in craft projects.

— **Heloise**

WHEN TO GET A NEW MATTRESS

Dear Heloise: Are the mattress ads now running about needing to replace your mattress every eight years just a sales ploy to replace your mattress sooner? With the use of sheets, mattress covers, etc., I find it hard to believe what they say in the advertisements. — **Pam in Dallas**

Yes, they are a ploy and are misleading! It is an exaggeration that a mattress doubles in weight every eight years! Give me scientific evidence! There really is no set formula for when to buy a new mattress. Just remember to check the manufacturer's recommended care guidelines and warranty before purchasing a new mattress.

According to the Better Sleep Council (www.better-sleep.org), you should factor in how often the mattress was used and if it was cared for correctly. You also should ask yourself a few key questions, provided by the Council:

Are you waking up with aches and pains?
Are there obvious signs of wear on your mattress?
Is your sleep better or worse than it was a year ago?
If you answered "yes" to any of these, you should look into getting a new mattress. — **Heloise**

WHAT ARE CARABINERS?

Dear Readers: Many of you have written asking about what a carabiner is, since there have been hints in the column for ponytail holders and keys.

A carabiner is an oval or D-shaped metal ring often used in mountain climbing to fasten ropes. It usually has a spring-loaded catch on one side. They come in many different sizes, colors and shapes, and can be used for many different things. Have a hint on how you use carabiners? Let me know. — **Heloise**

Professional driver: Rules apply to all

DEAR ABBY: I am a professional driver. Please allow me to offer some advice to everyone I share the road with:

- (1) Please do not honk or display obscene gestures because I am driving the speed limit. It's not my fault that you're late.
- (2) Please don't pass me on the right, using the curb lane, parking lane, bike lane or sidewalk. It's dangerous for me, for you, and for anyone who happens to be in those lanes legally.
- (3) Please obey the stop signs, stoplights, yield signs and other signs on the road. They're there to protect people.
- (4) Please put down that breakfast sandwich, cup of coffee, lunch or dinner. If you're that hungry, pull over to eat.
- (5) Please turn off your cellphones while driving. Whatever it is, it can wait. And if it can't, you have no business being behind the wheel.
- (6) If you must discipline your children, please pull over to do it. I have seen drivers wrap their vehicles around trees and lampposts because they had turned around to talk to their child.

I drive more than 1,000 miles a week, and I see more accidents than most will in a lifetime. Many of them could have been avoided simply by paying attention to the road. If you choose to ignore this advice, I can pretty much guarantee that you will injure, or possibly kill, someone eventually. If my letter prevents just one fatality, then it was well worth the time it took to write it. — **MILWAUKEE MILE MAN**

DEAR MILE MAN: Thank you for taking the time to write. As both a driver and a passenger, I have seen some frightening near-misses because drivers chose to ignore speed limits and run stop signs and stoplights. Usually the infractions are caused less because of thoughtlessness than by rudeness and an attitude that the rules of the road apply to everyone else.

And please don't think that automobile drivers are the only transgressors, because I have seen bikers and cyclists do some of the same things.

DEAR ABBY: Why do some people think it's acceptable to tuck in the tag on my shirt? It's bad enough when my mother does it, but I have had acquaintances and even strangers do it without asking.

I said something the last time it happened, and the woman had the gall to take offense! All I said was, "Please don't!" Am I wrong? — **PLEASE DON'T IN TEXAS**

DEAR PLEASE DON'T: I'm sure there are various reasons why people try to tuck in an errant tag — or remove a piece of lint — from a stranger's clothing. I suspect they range from attempting to be helpful, to impulsiveness to compulsive behavior.

However, because what the woman did made you uncomfortable, you were right to tell her that you didn't like it. She should have asked before touching a stranger because many people are sensitive to any breach of their personal space.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY READERS: If you are partying tonight to celebrate the arrival of the new year, please don't drink and drive. Make sure you have a designated driver.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, prosperous 2013! — **LOVE, ABBY**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

MONDAY											DEC. 31	
	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
(2) (KDKA)	News		CBS	Insider	Mother	Mother	Broke	Mike	Hawaii Five-0 '14		News	Pitts
(3) (WKYC)	News	News	News	Ent	Movie *** 'Enchanted' (2007) Ⓜ				New Year's		News	Daly
(4) (WTAE)	News	ABC	Inside	Ent	New Year's Rockin' Eve Celebrates				Dick Clark		News	Dick
(5) (WEWS)	News	ABC	The List	Let's Ask	New Year's Rockin' Eve Celebrates				Dick Clark		News	Dick
(8) (WJW)	Fox 8 News at 6PM		News	Big Bang	Bones '14' Ⓜ		The Mob Doctor '14'		News		New Year's	
(9) (WTOV)	News (N)	News	Jeopardy	Wheel	Movie *** 'Enchanted' (2007) Ⓜ				New Year's		News	Daly
(11) (WPXI)	News	News	Jeopardy	Wheel	Movie *** 'Enchanted' (2007) Ⓜ				New Year's		News	Daly
(17) (WDLI)	'The Ten Commandments'		Potters	Behind	Living	Franklin	Duplantis		Movie 'One Night With the King' (2006)			
(19) (WOIO)	News	CBS	Wheel	Jeopardy	Mother	Mother	Broke	Mike	Hawaii Five-0 '14		News	Late Sh
(21) (WFMY)	News	News	Inside	FamFeud	Movie *** 'Enchanted' (2007) Ⓜ				New Year's		News	Daly
(22) (WCWB)	American	Fam. Guy	Simpsons	Seinfeld	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Friends	Friends	Baggage	Excused
(23) (WVPX)	Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'	
(27) (WKBN)	First	CBS	Wheel	Jeopardy	Mother	Mother	Broke	Mike	Hawaii Five-0 '14'		First	Late Sh
(33) (WYTV)	News	ABC	Ent	Insider	New Year's Rockin' Eve Celebrates				Dick Clark		News	Dick
(43) (WUAB)	Insider	Inside	Two Men	Two Men	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		News	Sports	Dish Nat	Extra (N)
(49) (WEAO)	Sesame	NewsNite	PBS NewsHour (N)		Live From Lincoln Center 'G'		Barbra Streisand		Live From Lincoln Center 'G'			
(53) (WPGH)	Big Bang	Two Men	Big Bang	Two Men	Bones '14' Ⓜ		The Mob Doctor '14'		Channel 11 News		New Year's	
(55) (WBNX)	There	Rules	Office	Office	iHeartRadio Music Festival (N) 'PG' Ⓜ				Friends	Friends	Rules	Raymond
(67) (WOAC)	Pastor	History	Health	CBN	TOT	Manna	B. Hinn	Life	J Hages	Yr Bible	Wom	Sayn
(A&E)	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
(AMC)	Movie *** 'The Fifth Element' (1997) Bruce Willis Ⓜ				The Walking Dead				The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead	
(AP)	Tanked 'PG' Ⓜ		Tanked 'PG' Ⓜ		Tanked 'PG' Ⓜ		Tanked 'PG' Ⓜ		Tanked 'PG' Ⓜ		Eating	Eating
(BET)	Top Videos		Notarized	The Top 100 Videos of 2012					Notarized: The Top 100 Videos of 2012		106 & Party (N)	
(BRAV)	(5:00) Movie 'A Few Good Men' (1992)				Movie *** 'A Few Good Men' (1992) Tom Cruise						Real Housewives	
(CNBC)	Mad Money (N)		The Kudlow Report		Cruise Inc.		Marijuana Industry		American Greed		Mad Money	
(CNN)	The Situation Room		E. B. OutFront		Anderson Cooper		Piers Morgan		Anderson Cooper		E. B. OutFront	
(CSPN)	(5:00) Public Affairs				Politics & Public Policy Today							
(DISC)	(4:00) Amish Mafia		Fast N' Loud Ⓜ '14'		Fast N' Loud Ⓜ '14'		Fast N' Loud Ⓜ '14'		Fast N' Loud Ⓜ '14'		Fast N' Loud Ⓜ '14'	
(DISN)	Phineas	Good	Jessie	Jessie	Movie 'Deeplicable Me' (2010)		Phineas	Dog	Dog		Star New Year	
(E!)	Kardashian		Kardashian		Movie *** 'Knocked Up' (2007) Seth Rogen				H'wood		Chelsea	Ice Coco
(ESPN)	College Football		Football	College Football	Chick-fil-A Bowl -- Clemson vs. LSU From Atlanta (N)						SportsCenter (N)	
(ESPN2)	College Basketball			College Basketball	Harvard at St. Mary's				SportsCenter (N)		SportsNation (N)	
(FAM2)	(5:30) Movie *** 'Hook' (1991) Dustin Hoffman				Movie *** 'The Goonies' (1985) Sean Astin						The '700 Club 'PG'	
(FNC)	Special Report		FOX Report		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity 'Special'		The Five		New Year	
(FOOD)	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Drive
(FSOH)	Jackets		TBA		To Be Announced				TBA		Jackets	Cavaliers
(GAC)	Top 50 Videos of 2012				Headline Cou				George Strait: ACM Artist of the Decade All Star Concert 'PG'			
(HBO)	(5:30) 'Elektra' Ⓜ		(15) Movie 'Johnny English Reborn' Ⓜ		Movie * 'New Year's Eve' (2011) Ⓜ						** 'Contraband'	
(HGTV)	Hunt Int'l	Hunt Int'l	Hunt Int'l	Hunt Int'l	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
(I)	Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'	
(LIFE)	Wife Swap Ⓜ 'PG'		Wife Swap Ⓜ 'PG'		Movie *** 'Pretty Woman' (1990) Richard Gere Ⓜ						(01) Dance Moms	
(MAX)	Strike Bk [(40) Strike Bk Ⓜ		Strike Bk Ⓜ 'MA'		Strike Bk Ⓜ 'MA'		Strike Bk Ⓜ 'MA'		Strike Bk Ⓜ 'MA'		Strike Bk	Strike Bk
(MSNBC)	PoliticsNation (N)		Hardball Matthew		The Ed Show (N)		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		The Ed Show	
(MTV)	MTV Special 'PG'		Sucker Free Ⓜ 'PG'		MTV Special 'PG'		MTV Special 'PG'		Catfish	Inbo	MTV Special 'PG'	
(NICK)	Sponge	Drake & Josh Ⓜ 'V7 Ⓜ			Full H'se		Full H'se		Full H'se		Full H'se	Friends
(OVC)	North Nights		PM Style With Lisa Robertson						The Master Suite		Flameless Candles	
(SHOW)	(15) Movie *** 'Fright Night' (2011)				Untold History		D.L. Hughley: Reset		Andrew Dice Clay		Katt Williams	
(SYFY)	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone	Zone
(TBN)	'The Ten Commandments'		Potters		Behind	Living	Franklin	Duplantis			Movie 'One Night With the King' (2006)	
(TCM)	Abbott	'Abbott & Costello Meet Mummy'			Movie *** 'After the Thin Man'				Movie **** 'The Apartment' (1960)			
(TLC)	Cake Boss Next		Cake Boss Next		Cake Boss Next		Cake Boss Next		Cake		Cake	Cake Boss Next
(TNN)	'Star Wars V'		Movie *** 'Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi' (1983) Ⓜ						Movie 'Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi' (1983)			
(TNT)	'Transformers'		The Mentalist '14'		The Mentalist '14'		The Mentalist '14'		The Mentalist '14'		Leverage 'PG'	
(TOON)	Regular	Regular	Regular	Regular	Incred	Incred	KingHill	KingHill	American	American	Fam. Guy	Eric
(TRAV)	Seaside Beach Bars		Vegas Hot Spots		Vegas After Hours		Vegas Adults Only		Sturgis Wild Ride		Sturgis Cops 'PG'	
(TRUTV)	World's Dumbest		World's Dumbest		World's Dumbest		World's Dumbest		World's Dumbest		World's Dumbest	
(TVLAND)	(13) M*A*S*H 'PG'		M*A*S*H		M*A*S*H		Cosby		Raymond		Raymond	King
(USA)	NCIS Ⓜ 'PG' Ⓜ		NCIS Los Angeles		WWE Monday Night RAW (N) Ⓜ (Live) Ⓜ							'Couples Retreat'
(WGN)	Chris	Chris	Funny Home Videos		Funny Home Videos		Funny Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Funny Home Videos	
(WTBS)	King	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Fam. Guy	Family Guy Ⓜ '14'		Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan '14' Ⓜ	

No proven link in yeast infection, diet

DEAR DR. ROACH: If a young, newly married woman has a long history of frequent yeast infections, would it seem rational that some dietary treatment would be sought? What kind of testing should be done? — **E.B.**

ANSWER: Yeast and bacteria are found normally in the vagina, even if a woman has no symptoms. When the yeast grow out of control and cause symptoms, we refer to this as a yeast infection.

Diet does not seem to play a major role in most women, and studies including a careful diet have not been able to prove that diet reduces symptoms or longevity of yeast infections.

Anecdotally, I certainly have had women patients who have found that diet does seem to play a role in development of yeast infections.

Since diabetes is a common risk factor, testing for diabetes is a good idea, although it's unlikely to be found unless there are other risk factors.

The data suggest that healthy bacteria, especially lactobacillus, may help prevent recurrence. In that vein, perhaps the woman would consider taking probiotics as a "dietary treatment."

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 30-year-old female with a weight issue. I am about 100 pounds overweight, according to doctors. I get plenty of exercise and have tried diets. Being overweight runs in my family on both sides.

Doctors do not want to give me anything to help with my metabolism or anything else. I also have acid reflux, but it is not severe enough for medical insurance to cover any type of weight-loss surgery. I am really lost. Doctors claim that the reason I cannot get pregnant is because of my weight. I really, really want to have children. I hope you can offer some ideas

and hope. — **K.L.**

ANSWER: Losing weight — and keeping it off — is one of the hardest things we doctors ask people to do. But it sounds like you are not getting the help you need from your doctors. It's time to find someone who can work with you. In addition to diet and exercise, medications sometimes can be of benefit. For a 30-year-old who is 100 pounds overweight, I think weight-loss surgery would be appropriate if other treatments alone don't do the job. Weight-loss experts can work with your insurance company.

It is absolutely true that being very overweight reduces a woman's chance of getting pregnant, and losing weight can improve her chances. I recommend waiting at least a year after surgery (if that's what you do) before trying to get pregnant.

DR. ROACH WRITES: I want to congratulate Dr. Paul Donohue on more than three decades of writing this column — an amazing feat. I am also very grateful for the opportunity to take over this column and will try to continue giving the good, practical, usable advice that readers have appreciated through the years. I join the many letter writers who have written to wish Dr. Donohue the best in his retirement. I have seen many heartfelt letters noting advice he has given them that has really made a difference in their lives.

Dr. Donohue, here's to YOUR good health!

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGood-Health@med.cornell.edu or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Health newsletters may be ordered from www.rbma-mall.com.

Just let him deal with adult kids



Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband and I lived with a very dysfunctional situation for several years. His children from a prior marriage were encouraged by their mother to tell falsehoods about our home life. She was planning to leave the state and needed full custody in order to take them, and she ultimately accomplished this.

We went to counseling and considered legal action, but realized that even if we won, we no longer agreed on how to parent these kids. The constant discord did some damage to our marriage. My husband put up with a lot of nastiness as long as the kids would see him. I tried to help, but couldn't tolerate their continuing dishonesty and disrespect. The kids eventually developed problems in their personal lives, school and jobs. Slowly, my husband rebuilt a relationship with them, but in doing so, he allowed me to be viewed as the enemy. I stopped being included in family plans.

Now his ex-wife and grown children treat my husband as if he is single. The holidays are fine, since the grown children spend them with their mother, and my husband spends his with our little family. However, he attends his children's graduations, weddings and birthdays without me.

I love my husband. He is happy with us and lets us know. Most of all, he thanks us for al-

lowing him to be a normal parent. He has his adult children in his life and sees them once or twice a year, but the situation is becoming increasingly untenable to me. I no longer know what line to draw. Where do we go from here? — **The Second Wife**

Dear Second: Actually, the line was drawn some time ago: Your husband attends his grown children's functions without you. This is not ideal, but it also doesn't have to be cause for constant misery. It would show tremendous grace for you to tell your husband to go and spend time with his adult children, without any residual bitterness on your part. It's only once or twice a year, and we suspect Hubby would be enormously grateful.

Dear Annie: I'm responding to "Want My Husband Back," whose married life turned to hell when her husband retired.

When I married my wife, I was very sports minded and adventurous with several hobbies. My wife was not interested in those things. I managed to teach her cribbage, but that was about it. Now, we are both retired and work part time a couple of days a week. I started to explore some "on the edge" sports, and I forgot about her. After she called me on the carpet about it, I realized she had a point. All of my activities were directed toward me, and she was on the outside.

We decided on a course adjustment, and now I'm enjoying the opera while she is learning about extreme sports. She has even expressed some interest in trying one. The best part is, we're together so much more often that it's like we went back in time 45 years. And our private time together has really improved.

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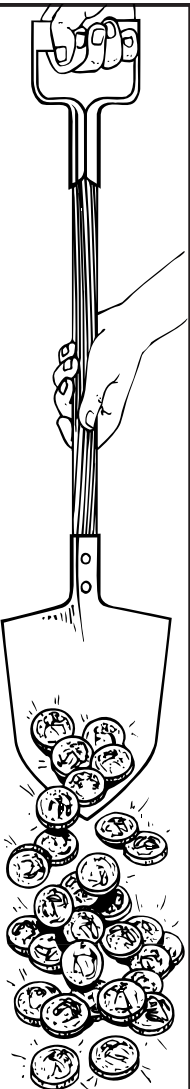
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Road trip on tap for NASA's Mars rover in new year

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Since captivating the world with its acrobatic landing, the Mars rover Curiosity has fallen into a rhythm: Drive, snap pictures, zap at boulders, scoop up dirt. Repeat.

Topping its to-do list in the new year: Set off toward a Martian mountain — a trek that will take up a good chunk of the year.

The original itinerary called for starting the drive before the Times Square ball drop, but Curiosity lingered longer than planned at a pit stop, delaying the trip.

Curiosity will now head for Mount Sharp in mid-February after it drills into its first rock.

"We'll probably be ready to hit the pedal to the metal and give the keys back to the rover drivers," mission chief scientist John Grotzinger said in a recent interview at his office on the sprawling NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory campus 15 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

The road trip comes amid great expectations. After all, it's the reason the \$2.5 billion mission targeted Gale Crater near the Martian equator. Soaring from the center of the ancient crater is a 3-mile-high peak with intriguing layers of rocks. Curiosity's job is to figure out whether the landing site ever had the right environmental conditions to support microbes. Scientists already know water flowed in the past thanks to the rover's discovery of an old streambed. Besides water, life as we know it also needs energy, the sun.

What's missing are the chemical building blocks of life: complex carbon-based molecules. If they're preserved on Mars, scientists figure the best place to hunt for them is at the base of Mount Sharp where images from space reveal hints of interesting geology.

It's a six-month journey if Curiosity

drives nonstop. But since scientists will want to command the six-wheel rover to rest and examine rocky outcrops along the way, it'll turn into a nine-month odyssey.

Before Curiosity can tackle a mountain, there's unfinished business to tend to. After spending the holiday taking measurements of the Martian atmosphere, Curiosity gears up for the first task of the new year: Finding the perfect rock to bore into.

The exercise — from picking a rock to drilling to deciphering its chemical makeup — is expected to last more than a month.

"We have promised everybody that we're going to go slowly," said Grotzinger, a geologist at the California Institute of Technology.

Curiosity's low-key adventures thus far are in contrast to the drama-filled touchdown that entranced the world in August. Since the car-size rover was too heavy to land using a parachute and airbags, engineers invented a daring new way that involved lowering it to the surface by cables. The risky arrival proved so successful and popular that NASA is planning an encore in 2020.

Curiosity joined another NASA rover, Opportunity, which has been exploring the Martian southern hemisphere since 2004. Opportunity's twin, Spirit, stopped communicating in 2010.

After nailing the landing, Curiosity fell into a routine. The first month was dominated by health checkups — a tedious but essential prerequisite before driving. A chemistry laboratory on wheels, it's the most high-tech spacecraft to land on another planet so extra care was taken to ensure its tools, including its rock-zapping laser and robotic arm, worked.

Once it got the green light, it trundled to a waypoint that's home to three unique types of terrain to perform sci-

ence experiments. Every time Curiosity roves, it leaves Morse code tracks in the soil, providing a visual signal between drives. The message spells out JPL, short for Jet Propulsion Lab, which built the rover.

So far, its odometer has logged less than a mile. Despite the slow going, scientists have been smitten with the postcards it beamed home, including a stylish self-portrait and tantalizing glimpses of Mount Sharp.

Huge expectations weigh on the mission with NASA balancing the need to feed the public's appetite while pursuing discoveries at its own pace. Last month, the space agency quashed Internet speculation that Curiosity had detected complex carbon compounds in a pinch of Martian soil by issuing a statement ahead of a science meeting where the team was due to present the latest findings.

American University space policy professor Howard McCurdy said Curiosity is currently in a transition, caught between the viral landing and the scientific payoff expected at Mount Sharp.

"It is interesting, but slow," he said in an email. "I expect public interest will rise as the rover gets closer to its destination."

Curiosity's prime mission lasts two years, but NASA expects the plutonium-powered rover to live far longer. A priority for its human handlers is to learn to operate it more efficiently so that it becomes second nature. Before heading to Mount Sharp, engineers plan a software update to Curiosity's computers to fix remaining bugs.

"We'll need to be pretty careful," project manager Richard Cook said of the upcoming drive. "We may find terrain that we're not comfortable driving in and we'll have to spend time driving around stuff."

Parks director spurs rehab of historic mill

By MARY BETH LANE
The Columbus Dispatch

LANCASTER, Ohio (AP) — For years, Dave Fey was Fairfield County's Don Quixote, tilting at windmills — or, in his case, a tumbledown 19th-century gristmill.

The director of Fairfield County Historical Parks had vowed to restore Rock Mill into the crown jewel of the park system. He envisioned a working piece of history that would grind corn into cornmeal and wheat into flour, as it did when it was built in 1824, and would beckon tourists and students on field trips. The restoration began in 2006.

It proceeded slowly, however, for lack of money. Now, following voter approval of the first property-tax levy for the park district, the work pace has picked up significantly.

An important piece of the project, a 10-ton oak waterwheel to power the mill, was installed in September.

A flume to carry water from the Hocking River onto the waterwheel will follow, along with gears and other equipment.

About \$750,000 has been spent on the project so far, and it will take as much as \$400,000 more to finish it, Fey estimated. He hopes it will be completed in two years.

"You are going to fully allow your senses to experience 1824," Fey said, his eyes sparkling with enthusiasm as he checked on a carpenter's crew working on the mill. "You will smell the flour dust in the air, you will breathe it, you will taste it."

Judy Shupe, who is retiring after five

People who know Fey did not doubt that he would finish the restoration and eventually would persuade voters to approve a tax to support the park district. The money will be used to add restrooms, walking trails, picnic tables and other recreational amenities to its 20 properties, which include covered bridges, a canal lock and an Indian mound. The district also now manages the Wahkeena Nature Preserve, about 35 miles southeast of Columbus.

The 0.4-mill levy passed in 2011 on the 11th attempt since the park district was established in 1981. The 10-year tax generates slightly more than \$1 million annually and costs homeowners about \$12 per \$100,000 of property value.

Fey, 68, who lives in Baltimore in northern Fairfield County, has directed the park district since 1999 after retiring from a career teaching high-school biology.

For many who have met the talkative Fey through his park job or have heard one of the hundreds of presentations he has made, the first impression is that he must have been a history teacher.

Name the topic — Fairfield County's sandstone cliffs, Indian tribes, settlers, the gristmill — and Fey is off and running. He shares history in the most interesting manner and captivates the listener, said Rosemary Hajost, a Lancaster resident who worked on the levy campaign last year.

"In a former life, I am sure that he was a stand-up performer of some sort," she said.

Judy Shupe, who is retiring after five

terms as a county commissioner, said the county would not have had a park district without Fey.

Before the levy passed, the parks received about \$100,000 annually from the county general fund, enough for mowing and basic upkeep but little else. Fey enlisted volunteers, got grants to start the Rock Mill restoration and climbed behind the wheel of a pickup daily to tend to the parks. He was paid \$30,000 a year and was the only employee.

"I don't know anyone who has as much enthusiasm for their job as Dave Fey," said Shupe, who plans to volunteer with the park district after she retires.

Fey now is paid \$50,000. He also hired a landscape architect and planner for \$80,000 to develop the parks and a communications and financial coordinator for \$38,000, he said.

County Commissioner Steve Davis described Fey as "the Energizer Bunny of history," who has kept going and going, infectious in his enthusiasm to share with others the county's sites and the importance of preserving them.

"His legacy has already begun," Davis added. "I have been to Rock Mill probably 30 times since the waterwheel was put on. It's never empty."

"The Rock Mill restoration will be the crown jewel of his legacy. His modesty will be a part of his legacy, as well. He is keenly aware of his own transient nature. Much of what he is doing is for that next generation."

Information from: The Columbus Dispatch, <http://www.dispatch.com>

Cops suspect casino worker killed young girl

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Police suspect that a casino worker killed a 10-year-girl before going to a Las Vegas resort and allegedly slashing the face of a co-worker with razor blades.

The search for Jade Morris ended Friday afternoon when officials confirmed that it was her body that was found a day earlier in an undeveloped housing tract.

The Clark County coroner's office said she died of multiple stab wounds. Jade was last seen Dec. 21 with family friend Brenda Stokes Wilson, who picked her up to go Christmas shopping.

Wilson, 50, returned the car she had borrowed for the outing to a friend two hours later. Jade never came back. Investigators later found blood on the driver's door and steering wheel of the 2007 Saab sedan.

Later that night, Wilson was wrestled to the ground with razors in each hand after allegedly slashing the face of a female co-worker at the Bellagio casino.

A judge raised her bail to \$60,000 from \$600,000 Friday morning after she was identified as the prime suspect in the child's killing.

"It's no secret the defendant is the suspect in the murder of 10-year-old Jade Morris," prosecutor Robert Daskas told Senior Clark County District Court Judge Joseph Bonaventure at the hearing.

Later Friday, Las Vegas police homicide Capt. Chris Jones said investigators were still moving forward.

"As soon as we get all the evidence in that we need, we'll book her on the murder charges," he said.

Wilson has been jailed since the 21st on felony battery with a weapon, burglary and mayhem charges that could get her decades in prison.

Police said she offered no help in the search for the missing girl. Murder and kidnapping charges could get her life in prison without parole or the death penalty.

On Thursday, Las Vegas police responding to a 911 call found a girl's body in unkempt brush near palm trees in a small traffic circle about 10 miles from the downtown Las Vegas outlet mall where Stokes was to have taken the girl shopping.

On Friday evening, Jones called the slaying "unfathomable."

"Even having our jobs, we still can't wrap our heads around this," he said. "A lot of people think that just because of our positions we can understand it, but we can't."

In court Friday morning, Wilson stood flanked by eight police officers as her lawyer, Tony Liker, clutching a Bible and a copy of the charging documents, asked the judge to postpone arraignment until Wednesday to give him time to meet with Wilson.

Wilson, who had been identified by police and prosecutors as Brenda Stokes, told the judge Friday that her full name was Brenda Stokes Wilson.

Jade's father, Philip Morris, was removed from court Wednesday by armed court officers after shouting questions about his daughter's whereabouts to Wilson. He did not attend Friday's hearing.

The two dated for several years, and Jade had a long and trusting relationship with Wilson, according to the girl's grandfather, Philip Tucker.

Tucker said Philip Morris lived in Billings, Mont., and worked at a Flying J truck stop for more than a year. He would stay with Wilson when he visited Las Vegas, Tucker said.

Authorities have not disclosed a motive for the slaying. But Tucker said Wilson appeared to believe that the face-slashing victim had become romantically involved with Philip Morris.

Wilson picked up Jade for their shopping expedition around 5 p.m. Later, she got a ride with a friend to the Bellagio. She allegedly attacked her co-worker, Joyce Rhone, at around 9:30 p.m. Rhone, 44, was hospitalized with deep cuts on her face, including one from her ear to the edge of her mouth.

Wilson told investigators that she visited her doctor last week, seeking to be admitted to a hospital "due to feeling like she wanted to hurt someone."

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